

DATE: April 2, 2012
TO: YLF Class of 2012
FROM: Susie Abbott
RE: Closing Retreat Agenda

I hope you are all looking forward to our Closing Retreat. Will Buie and Andrea Miller Pound have planned a great program for us. Enclosed are the Closing Retreat agenda, map, and an invitation to the Graduation Celebration. **Please be sure to read all of this information carefully and call me immediately if you have any questions.**

The Closing Retreat begins when we meet at the Junior League of Birmingham at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, and will end with the Graduation Celebration on Friday, April 13(10:30-12:00) at the Junior League of Birmingham. Please plan to arrive on Thursday no **later than 3:45 p.m.** It is very important that the bus leaves on time. We will travel from there to the YMCA Hargis Retreat. **If you will have trouble getting there on time – please let me know ASAP. If you need to get an early dismissal from school, I can help to arrange it.**

You will need to **BRING BED LINENS and PILLOW (OR SLEEPING BAG) AND BLANKET AND TOWELS TO THE RETREAT. ALSO, REMEMBER TOOTHBRUSH, SHAMPOO, SOAP, ETC.** The dress for the graduation ceremony is casual, but neat – something like a golf shirt and pants for the guys and a skirt or slacks and a top for the girls would be appropriate. **Please remember - no blue jeans and t-shirts for the graduation ceremony.** Please pack lightly – remember - we will be together less than 24 hours! You are welcome to bring any sports equipment that you may want to use during free time (i.e. basketball, football, Frisbee.) **Also, canoeing will be available, so you may want to bring a change of clothes.**

We will spend some time on Thursday evening fine tuning your study group presentations for the graduation ceremony. **If your study group does not have their plan in place, please take time over the next week to finalize your plans.** **If you have any audio visual needs (i.e. laptop, projector, sound) I need to hear from you ASAP so that I can make the necessary arrangements to get the equipment together.**

Also, if there is an interest, we can have a “Talent Fest” to showcase all those wonderful talents the class of 2012 has! If you want to participate, you need to sign up ahead of time, so please, let me know ASAP. Bring whatever you need to perform (or let me know if you need something special).

The Closing Retreat will be a lot of fun, a time to remember the year, and to celebrate with your YLF class members.

Be sure to share the enclosed Graduation invitation with your parents and let us know by April 6th whether they will be able to attend. They have also been mailed an invitation under separate cover.

You’ve been a great group, and I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, April 12th at 3:45 p.m.!

**YLF CLOSING RETREAT
Thursday, April 12 – Friday, April 13, 2012
AGENDA**

Goals: Reflect on the YLF year; establish priorities for Birmingham based on YLF year; identify challenges for the future; and celebrate graduation.

Program-Chairpersons:

Will Buie – Senior Admission Counselor, Undergraduate Admissions, UAB

Andrea Miller Pound – Program Director, School of Business, UAB

Drop-off location: Junior League of Birmingham, 2212 20th Avenue South, English Village.

Thursday, April 12th at 3:45. DO NOT BE LATE!!!! It is important that the bus leaves on time!

In case of emergency, Susie Abbott's cell phone is 914-0132. See enclosed map.

Parking. Overnight parking is available in the Junior League Parking lot.

Pick-up location. We hope that all parents will be able to attend our Graduation Ceremony! **Junior League of Birmingham, 2212 20th Avenue South, English Village** Friday, April 13th from 10:30-12:00, (see enclosed invitation and map)

Dress: Casual, but neat. There is no need to "dress-up" for the graduation ceremony. However, **do not wear jeans and t-shirts.** Something like a golf shirt and pants for the guys and a skirt or slacks and a top for the girls would be appropriate.

Thursday, April 12, 2012

3:45 p.m.	<u>MEET AT JUNIOR LEAGUE</u>	<u>JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BIRMINGHAM</u> 2212 20 th Avenue South, English Village
3:45-5:00	<u>TRAVEL TO YMCA Hargis Retreat</u>	<u>YMCA Hargis Retreat</u> 928 Hargis Drive Chelsea, AL 35043 678-6512
5:00-6:30	<u>CHECK IN AND FREE TIME</u>	<u>Davis Hall and Hargis Grounds</u>
6:30-7:00	<u>DINNER</u>	<u>Dining Hall</u>
7:00-7:15	<u>OVERVIEW OF THE RETREAT</u> Will Buie and Andrea Miller Pound	<u>Davis Hall</u>
7:15-9:00	<u>PROMOTING BIRMINGHAM</u>	<u>Davis Hall</u> Study groups fine tune creative presentations focusing on their YLF experience. Groups will present to YLF staff for final review before being presented at graduation on Friday.
9:00-10:00	<u>YLF TALENTFEST 2012</u>	
10:00-11:00	<u>CAMPFIRE</u>	
11:00 p.m.	<u>IN ROOMS (camp curfew)</u>	

Friday, April 13, 2012

7:00 a.m.	<u>WAKE UP! Prepare to check-out</u>	<u>Davis Hall</u>
7:30-8:00	<u>BREAKFAST</u>	<u>Dining Hall</u>

- 8:00-8:15** **KEEPING YLF PART OF YOUR LIFE** **Davis Hall**
- 8:15-9:00** **FINAL CAUCUS: WHAT YLF MEANT TO ME**
Facilitated by Rachel Estes
- 9:00-9:15** **CLOSING RETREAT EVALUATION AND FINAL EVALUATION**
- 9:15-10:00** **TRAVEL TO JUNIOR LEAGUE** **JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BIRMINGHAM**
2212 20th Avenue South, English Village
Auditorium
- 10:15** **STUDENTS ARE SEATED**
- 10:30-10:35** **WELCOME**
Susie Abbott, YLF Executive Director
- 10:35-10:40** **OPENING REMARKS**
Jordan Kurtz, YLF Class of 2012
- 10:40-11:30** **PROMOTING BIRMINGHAM**
Student study group presentations on the Arts, Human Services, Education and Economic
Development, Government, and Leadership.
- 11:30-11:45** **CHARGE TO GRADUATES: WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?**
Cedric Sparks, Director, Division of Youth Services, City of Birmingham
- 11:45-11:55** **RECOGNITION OF YLF GRADUATES**
Rachel Estes, YLF Caucus Leader
- 12:00** **ADJOURN AND REFRESHMENTS**

Directions to Junior League of Birmingham

2212 20th Avenue South, English Village

From Downtown:

1. Take Red Mountain Expressway/Highway 280 East to the 21st Avenue South Exit (just past St. Vincent's Hospital).
2. Turn left on 21st Avenue South.

3. Turn left on 23rd Street South (this is the last left before the traffic light at Cahaba Road).
4. Turn left on 20th Avenue South to enter the Junior League parking lot.

From I-65:

1. Take the Greensprings or Oxmoor Road exits to Valley Avenue.
2. Proceed on Valley Avenue through the traffic light at Vulcan Park. Valley Avenue becomes 21st Avenue South.
3. Proceed on 21st Avenue South, going under Highway 280.
4. Turn left on 23rd Street South (this is the last left before the traffic light at Cahaba Road).
5. Turn left on 20th Avenue South to enter the Junior League parking lot.

