



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
[CLICK A QUESTION TO OBTAIN THE ANSWER](#)

**PRE-ACADEMY QUESTIONS**

FOR STUDENTS	FOR PARENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">What happens at the Advanced Leadership Academy?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What is the dress code for the Academy?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">How are the accommodations?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Do students need to bring linens and towels with them?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The student has food allergies and/or has a special diet. Can HOBY make accommodations?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The student has a disability and/or has an illness. Is HOBY equipped to handle such cases?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What is BYOD?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What does the \$1250 registration fee cover?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">How much money should students have for the week?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Do students need to attend the entire event?</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">What happens at the Advanced Leadership Academy?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Will there be adequate adult supervision?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Can parents observe the Academy or check in on their child during the week?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What should parents do if they don't hear from their child in several days?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What does the \$1250 registration fee cover?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">How much money should students have for the week?</a></li> </ul>

**PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- [Who is eligible to attend the Academy?](#)
- [How many students will be accepted to the ALA?](#)
- [I am an international student. How do I register and attend?](#)
- [Are there limits to the number of students from each HOBY State Leadership Seminar location?](#)
- [Does completing the electronic registration confirm a student's acceptance to the ALA?](#)
- [When will acceptance to the program be confirmed?](#)
- [How can students provide proof of attendance at the ALA?](#)
- [What should students expect after the ALA?](#)

**COLLEGE CREDIT FROM GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

- [How does the college credit for the ALA work?](#)
- [Is there a GPA Requirement to be eligible to earn college credit?](#)
- [What is the tuition for college credit?](#)
- [Is the college credit transferrable?](#)
- [How do students get a transcript after the Academy?](#)
- [How does this affect a student's college application?](#)
- [How does one contact George Mason University for additional information?](#)

## TRAVEL TO LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

- [The student is being driven to the ALA. What are the arrival/departure dates and times?](#)
- [The student is flying to the ALA. What airport should the student fly into?](#)
- [The student is coming to the ALA by train or bus. What terminals should the student use?](#)
- [What ground transportation is provided to/from the airport, train station, or bus station?](#)
- [Can HOBY provide the names of other students from our state/site so they may travel together?](#)
- [Can students drive themselves to the ALA if they live within the Chicago, IL area?](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

- [What is the cancellation policy?](#)
- [Who is the contact for additional questions?](#)

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE ADVANCED LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

### What happens at the Advanced Leadership Academy?

*The ALA is an exciting and intense experience. Participants describe it as "life-changing." The days begin with wake up at 7:00 AM and are packed with large and small group activities, discussions and project action planning through bed checks at 11:00 PM. Buffet-style meals are scheduled for approximately 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM as well as an evening snack. The program is rigorous with very little down time so please get plenty of rest before you arrive.*

### What is the dress code for the Academy?

*The dress code is business casual for most of the event. Business casual is crisp, neat, and should look professional. Avoid tight or baggy clothing; business casual is classic rather than trendy. Khaki or dark pants and a collared shirt are good choices for both young men and women. Females can wear blouses or sweaters; cleavage is never business-appropriate (despite what you see in the media). Polo/golf shirts, unwrinkled, are appropriate. This may not seem like terribly exciting attire, but you are not trying to stand out for your cutting edge look, but for your good judgment as a leader whom others respect and want to follow.*

*Students will want to bring a "dressier" outfit for the closing banquet and ceremony (semi-formal). Casual attire may be permitted for portions of the event and will be announced. Acceptable casual attire includes t-shirts and shorts of a modest length.*

*The following attire is not permitted at any time during HOBY events: strapless/tube tops, tops with spaghetti straps, tank tops, bare midriffs, exposure of undergarments, shorts and mini-skirts shorter than 5 inches above the knee, excessively tight clothing, clothing with profane or offensive language or graphics, torn clothing, and clothing with holes.*

*Please note that the ALA is during the summer so a sweater and dressing in layers is recommended as rooms are expected to be air-conditioned. There will also be a lot of walking between buildings so please wear comfortable shoes. July in this area is typically warm and humid (in the mid-80s Fahrenheit), however be prepared for cooler weather with a breeze in the evening, as campus is next to the lake.*

### Will there be adequate adult supervision?

*Absolutely! HOBY programs have a minimum of one adult (21 years or older) for every 12 students at all times. All HOBY adults have been background checked and trained. Students are never left unattended or allowed to walk across campus, off campus, or any other location involved with the ALA without supervision.*

### Can parents observe the Academy or check on their child during the week?

*We discourage having parents present during HOBY programs. This encourages the students to find their own voice and step out of their comfort zone. You may have your child call you to check in via their personal cell phone. However,*

phones must be turned off during all program sessions. For emergencies, you will receive a contact number to reach HOBY personnel in the advance materials each student will receive. You will also be invited to attend the closing banquet and ceremonies; information on this will also be in the advance materials.

### **What should parents do if they don't hear from their child in several days?**

Please rest assured knowing your child will be busy and will not have much time to call home. There is a no cell-phone rule during all official ALA functions, so students will not have the opportunity to place or receive phone calls. If you don't hear from your child, consider that a good sign that they are busy and taking full advantage of the program. Should a concern arise, know that we will call you.

### **How can students provide proof of attendance at the ALA?**

HOBY can write your principal or guidance counselor a letter that explains the program and confirms your attendance. Should you need a letter, please send an e-mail to [ala@hoby.org](mailto:ala@hoby.org) with your request.

Leadership is an interdisciplinary topic that can be found within many academic subjects like social studies, psychology, sociology, and communication. Consider writing a reflection paper or give a class presentation in which you share what you learned and/or your project action plan and how it ties to your courses at school.

### **What should students expect after the ALA?**

Leadership development and support do not end when the ALA program concludes and participants return home. Students will arrive home with a project action plan for a service project or social enterprise endeavor to implement within one year following the ALA. Parental support greatly increases project success. Students are expected to communicate their progress and success to HOBY via their ALA Project Coach. Students should also log their hours into HOBY's Leadership for Service (L4S) system at [www.hoby.org](http://www.hoby.org).

HOBY provides an online social network, group video calls and chats as set up by Project Coaches with their groups, and as-needed one-on-one individual support to ALA alumni as they implement their projects back home.

Every ALA alumnus and volunteer is invited to join the HOBY ALA Facebook group, a social network in which project resources are shared, project progress is reported and the overall sense of community is continued.

The project coaches will also conduct monthly check-ins with each member of their ALA group. As the adult most familiar with their project action plan, they can provide suggestions, advice and encouragement to complete their plan.

E-mails from HOBY will remind students and parents of usernames and passwords, reporting protocols, logging L4S hours, scholarship and award opportunities, and other HOBY programs. Please pay special attention to these communications.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, LAKESHORE CAMPUS**

### **How are the accommodations?**

All students will stay in residence hall rooms at Loyola University Chicago with at least two beds. Each student will have a roommate (no roommate requests will be accepted). The rooms have a bed for each person, dressers and a closet. Each room has a shared bathroom and linens are provided. Floors will be single gender with adult rooms interspersed among student rooms.

### **Do students need to bring linens and towels with them?**

Linens, blanket, pillow and towels will be provided by the University. Students do need to bring their own toiletries.

## **The student has food allergies and/or has a special diet. Can HOBY make accommodations?**

Yes. The dining hall has multiple options for various food preferences and allergies. However we must have this information by **June 15, 2017** so please make sure this information is indicated in the General Restrictions portion of the Pre-ALA Materials and Forms.

## **The student has a disability and/or has an illness. Is HOBY equipped to handle such cases?**

Yes. Loyola University is an ADA-compliant facility. We have medical personnel who are trained nurses, EMTs, physicians' assistants, or physicians that are prepared to help students as needed. Please make sure the Personal Medical History section of the Pre-ALA Materials and Forms is completed accurately so we can assist you or your child appropriately.

## **What is BYOD?**

BYOD stands for "Bring Your Own Device." The Advanced Leadership Academy program has designated times and activities in which participants are encouraged, but not required, to utilize their own laptop or tablet. All meeting spaces will have free Wi-Fi access. In addition to technology activities and resources, each ALA participant will receive a username and password for the L4S (Leadership for Service) system.

# **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION PROCESS**

## **Who is eligible to attend the Academy?**

Any student enrolled as a junior or senior in high school. For the Summer 2017 program they should have just completed their junior or senior year prior to attending. Students should be between the ages of 16-18 during the program. You do not need to have participated in a prior HOBY program to be eligible for the ALA.

## **How many students will be accepted to the ALA?**

We are accepting up to 150 students to the 2017 ALA Summer Session. Spots are available on a first-paid basis.

## **I am an international student. How do I register and attend?**

The Academy is open to both domestic and international students. Foreign exchange students currently in North America are also eligible to attend. Students outside of North America should please contact Noel Elgrably at 818-851-3980 x315 or [elgrablyn@hoby.org](mailto:elgrablyn@hoby.org) for assistance with registration and any necessary visa assistance.

## **Are there limits to the number of students from each HOBY State Leadership Seminar location?**

There are no limits to the number of students who can attend ALA from each HOBY Seminar site.

## **Does completing the electronic registration confirm a student's acceptance to the ALA?**

Students and parents will receive an email registration acknowledgement upon submitting their electronic application and down payment. When the student's fees are paid in full, the student and parents/guardians will receive an email confirming payment and acceptance to the ALA. Please note that preparation for the ALA is a three step process:

1. Complete electronic registration at [www.hoby.org](http://www.hoby.org).
2. Complete the Pre-ALA Materials and Forms with electronic signature according to the e-mail sent to you.
3. Complete pre-ALA homework as outlined in the Advance Guide you will receive via e-mail one month before arrival.

## **When will acceptance to the program be confirmed?**

Within one week of final payment. If students haven't received a confirmation, please send an email to [ala@hoby.org](mailto:ala@hoby.org).

## COLLEGE CREDIT FROM GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

HOBY is proud to partner with nationally ranked George Mason University to offer college credit for successful completion of the Advanced Leadership Academy. George Mason University is ranked as one of the “Top Schools to Watch” by U.S. News & World Report, and as of the “Top 100 Best Values” in higher education by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance and Forbes. Learn more at <http://www.gmu.edu/>.

### How does the college credit for the ALA work?

The George Mason University course, *Special Topics in Leadership*, is a “Pass/Fail” course and students are evaluated based on their experiential learning opportunities throughout the ALA. Project Coaches (Academy Faculty) will monitor their active participation in simulations, contributions to discussions and demonstration of leadership and critical thinking skills in group and individual settings. Students will receive feedback on their progress throughout the Academy. At the conclusion of the ALA, students submit their final project action plan for evaluation. One college elective credit (unit) from George Mason University is awarded for successful completion of the ALA.

Post-ALA, Project Coaches track project progress monthly and students submit monthly progress or milestone reports as they work on their project. ALA participants are asked to enter their hours into HOBY’s Leadership for Service (L4S) system. Once the project is completed students submit their final Project Completion Report for evaluation and request to earn an additional two college credits. Students must follow the timeline, instructions and due dates provided at the ALA and pay the required tuition. Two college elective credits (units) from George Mason University are awarded for successful project completion and documentation submission.

### Is there a GPA requirement to be eligible to earn college credit?

Students are expected to have at least a 3.00 weighted GPA and show leadership potential through participation in clubs or community activities. Students must be capable of doing college-level work. Students who have less than a 3.00 weighted GPA are still eligible to participate in the ALA, but may not be eligible to earn college credit from George Mason University.

### What is the tuition for college credit?

The tuition for the first college credit is included in the ALA Registration Fee. Please note HOBY’s refund policy for registration fees. Tuition for the additional two (2) credit project is \$200.00. Payment will be made to HOBY at the time the additional college credits are applied for. Students who do not meet the requirements for additional two (2) college credits will be refunded the \$200.00 credit tuition amount.

### Is the college credit transferrable?

George Mason University elective credits are generally transferrable to other institutions of higher education. Acceptance of this credit by your current or prospective college or university is dependent upon the policy and discretion of that institution. You will have access to official George Mason University transcripts after successful completion of the program. Transcripts can be sent to other universities upon written request of the student to George Mason University.

### How does a student get a transcript after the Academy?

All scholars who successfully complete the ALA and requirements for credit will be sent an email 30 days after the end of the program, verifying their credit and giving instructions for requesting transcripts. Scholars can request an official Mason transcript to be sent to their high school or colleges to which they are applying or attending. For more information, click [here](#).

### How does this affect a student’s college application?

Student leadership conferences are an excellent opportunity for student growth and development and are outstanding experiences that enable emerging student leaders to network with peers from across the country and around the world. While scholars must list on their college applications that they have previously enrolled in college credit and submit official transcripts from Mason, it is unlikely that this type of credit will have a significant bearing on the college admissions process. When given the opportunity, we encourage students to think about how they can present these

experiences in the application process as an example of their leadership abilities.

## How does one contact George Mason University for additional information?

Please feel free to contact the George Mason University Office of Admissions if you have any questions or need additional information.

Elena Johnson  
George Mason University, Program Director  
ejohns35@gmu.edu

Rachel Cleaver  
George Mason University, Associate Director  
rcleave2@gmu.edu

George Mason University Office of Admissions: 703-993-5010

## TRAVEL TO LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

### The student is being driven to the ALA. What are the arrival/departure dates and times?

All students should arrive at Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus in Chicago, IL between 6 PM and 10 PM CDT on Thursday, July 6, 2017. Students can depart with their parent/guardian from 8AM CDT to 11AM CDT on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 if not participating in the Post-ALA Tour of Chicago. Students who participate in the tour can depart with their parent/guardian from 10AM CDT to 12NOON CDT on July 13, 2017. Student travel plans must be included in their record by June 15, 2017. This information can be added/modified after students are confirmed into the program. Driving directions to Loyola University Chicago's Lake Shore Campus can be found at <http://www.luc.edu/undergrad/about/ourcampuses/lakeshorecampus/loyola-university-chicago-lake-shore-campus.html>.

### The student is flying to the ALA. What airport should the student fly into?

Chicago O-Hare International Airport (ORD): 15 miles to Lake Shore Campus  
Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW): 35 miles to Lake Shore Campus

**Arrival:** Flight must arrive at ORD or MDW between 6:00pm and 10:00pm central time on Thursday 7/6/2017.

**Departure:** Flight must not depart ORD or MDW before 12noon central time on Tuesday, 7/11/2017, unless you are staying for the Post-ALA Chicago Highlights Sight-Seeing Tour, in which case your flight must not depart ORD or MDW before 12noon central on Thursday, 7/13/2017. Mid-day flights are best. If your flight leaves in the evening, you may have a long wait at the airport.

If you are unable to adhere to the above arrival and departure guidelines please e-mail Vicki Ferrence Ray at [ala@hoby.org](mailto:ala@hoby.org) or call her at 818-851-3980 x306. Please Note: Travel Information must be completely updated by June 15, 2017.

### The student is coming to the ALA by train or bus. What terminals should the student use?

Train: Chicago Union Station  
Bus: Chicago Union Station

See arrival and departure times above.

### What ground transportation is provided to/from the airport, train station, or bus station?

Ground transportation will be provided for those who have paid the ground transportation fee of \$75.00 (round trip) or \$40 (one way). You can select this option at the end of the registration on the Summary and Payment page. Please account for baggage claim, customs, and getting through the airport to ground transportation when choosing your flights. Your flight/train/bus must arrive between 6:00pm and 10:00pm central time on Thursday 7/6/2017. If you are

unable to adhere to the above arrival guidelines please e-mail Vicki Ferrence Ray at [ala@hoby.org](mailto:ala@hoby.org) or call her at 818-851-3980 x306. Please Note: Travel Information must be completely updated by June 15, 2017.

HOBY volunteers will meet students at the airport baggage claim area, train station, and bus station. Students who register for the shuttle will receive additional detailed instructions from the ALA Director of Transportation a few weeks before the ALA, including what to do if their flight /train/bus is delayed.

### **Can HOBY provide the names of other students going to the ALA so that they may travel together?**

HOBY cannot give this information without consent of a parent/guardian. Please make sure you check this option on the ALA application, this will allow us to share this information with other students and parents.

### **Can students drive themselves to the ALA if they are in the Chicago, IL area?**

No. Students can be dropped off, but should NOT plan to drive themselves. They will have a very full week and will be tired at the end of the program and in no condition to drive home at the conclusion of the program. Additionally, parking is very limited and fees apply.

## **PROGRAM EXPENSES**

### **What does the \$1250 registration fee cover?**

The \$1250 registration fee covers all food, accommodations, program expenses, book and training materials, and one college credit from George Mason University for successful completion of the ALA. The registration fee does not cover air/train/bus fare, ground transportation to/from the airport/stations, or spending money.

### **How much money should students have for the week?**

Students will only need money for incidentals and meals during travel and any spending money for the HOBY Store or convenience store items.

### **Do students need to attend the entire event?**

Yes. Students registered in a HOBY program must be present for the entire event including overnight. If circumstances arise that prevent your child from attending the entire ALA, please contact Vicki Ferrence Ray at [ala@hoby.org](mailto:ala@hoby.org). Please follow up without delay because a cancellation fee may apply.

### **Does HOBY provide scholarships or financial assistance to applicants?**

There are a limited number of partial scholarships available based on need and merit. Students must have a weighted GPA for 3.00 or greater AND be eligible free or reduced lunch at school. For more information on partial scholarships please call Vicki Ferrence Ray at 818-851-3980 x 306. Additionally, monthly payments can be made instead of paying the entire balance at one time. Registration must be paid in full by June 15, 2017.

### What is the cancellation policy?

*HOBYS Advanced Leadership Academy participant registration payment/cancellation policy:*

- *Students must submit a \$100 Non-Refundable deposit with their registration to hold their space; any remaining balance due must be paid in full by June 15, 2017. Monthly installments are permitted.*
- *Any cancellations received by May 1, 2017 will receive the registration fee refund minus the \$100 deposit and a \$225 administrative fee.*
- *Any cancellations received by May 15, 2017 will receive the registration fee refund minus the \$100 deposit and a \$425 administrative fee.*
- *Any cancellations received June 1, 2017 or after will not be eligible for a refund.*

*Note: Any payments made for waitlisted students that cannot be accommodated due to capacity limitations will have the option to register for the next ALA session or receive a full refund.*

### Who is the contact for additional questions?

*Any additional questions may be directed to Vicki Ferrence Ray, Chief National Programs Officer, at 818-851-3980 x306 or via email at [ala@hoby.org](mailto:ala@hoby.org).*