



**Knights of
Columbus®**
**Louisiana
State Council**

CYLA 2026



2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

ABOUT US

The **Catholic Youth Leadership Award** was established in 1959 by the **Louisiana State Council Knights of Columbus**. The purpose was to identify and recognize those high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership in their churches, schools, and communities. **Only practical Catholics are eligible to apply.**

THE DEETS

- **2 DIVISIONS** - MALE AND FEMALE.
- **COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION.**
- **LOCAL COUNCIL SELECTS A WINNER** IN EACH DIVISION.
- **STATE COUNCIL SELECTS THE TOP 5** IN EACH DIVISION FROM COUNCIL WINNERS.
- **TOP 5 IN EACH DIVISION** COMPETE FOR CASH PRIZES IN THE STATE CYLA FINALS.

AWARDS IN EACH DIVISION

COUNCIL LEVEL

VARIES BY COUNCIL

STATE LEVEL

- 1ST PLACE: \$5,000*
- 2ND PLACE: \$3,000
- 3RD PLACE: \$2,000
- 4TH PLACE: \$1,000
- 5TH PLACE: \$1,000

* **First place male and female** will also receive a plaque and be honored at the Knights of Columbus State Convention in Baton Rouge.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ **Nov 1, 2025** Student online submission opens
- ✓ **Jan 25, 2026** Student online submission closes
- ✓ **Feb 7, 2026** Council winner submission due
- ✓ **Apr 11, 2026** CYLA Finals in Baton Rouge

MORE INFORMATION

 **DELMAS FORBES** CYLA Chairman

 **CYLA@LOUISIANAKC.ORG**

 **LOUISIANAKC.ORG**

SCAN TO APPLY ONLINE



Questions?

Parents or guardians, contact **Delmas Forbes** at (225) 939-2980 or cyla@louisianakc.org.

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2025-2026 THE PROCESS

STEP 1 - APPLY

- ✓ Senior high school students who are Practical Catholics, log on to **louisianakc.org**, the Louisiana State Council Knights of Columbus website, in the menu, click **For Members**, then **Programs**, then **CYLA**.
- ✓ Complete the **online application** anytime between **November 1, 2025**, and **January 25, 2026**.

STEP 2 - WIN COUNCIL LEVEL

- ✓ Each Council selects 1 winner in each division - 1 male and 1 female.
- ✓ If you are selected as the Council winner, your local Knights of Columbus Council will notify you.
- ✓ Councils submit their winners to the State by **February 7, 2026**.

STEP 3 - WIN STATE LEVEL

- ✓ The State Council **reviews/scores all applications** from the local Council winners.
- ✓ The **top 5 male** and **top 5 female** applicants are selected to attend **CYLA State Finals**.
- ✓ State State CYLA Chairman, Delmas Forbes, **will email the top 5 in each division**.
- ✓ Sponsoring Councils of the top 5 in each division are also contacted.

STEP 4 - ATTEND STATE CYLA FINALS

- ✓ The **top 5 male** and **top 5 female applicants** selected from the Council winners are invited to attend CYLA State Finals in Baton Rouge.
- ✓ **Everyone invited will win a cash prize between \$1,000 and \$5,000!**
- ✓ CYLA Finals will be held on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, at **St. George Catholic Church** in Baton Rouge.

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for more info, check our our website
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