

2026 – 2027 Schedule of Classes and Attendance Policy
[Subject to change]

Session	Date(s)	Time
Family Orientation*	9/23	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Opening Retreat*	9/25	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
<i>Weather-related Backup Opening Retreat Day</i>	10/2	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exploring Ourselves: Personal Development	10/16	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exploring our History: Downtown Tour (<i>family welcome</i>)	10/17	9:00 am – 12 pm
Exploring our Lenses: Culture & Identity	11/6	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exploring Resources: Systems & Scarcity	12/4	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exploring Public Service: Government and Policy	1/15/27	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exploring Economy: Business, STEM & AI	2/5	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Building Your Network*	2/8	5:00 – 7:30 pm
Exploring Wellness: Well-Being & Self-Reflection	3/5	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exploring YOU: Telling Your Leadership Story*	4/2	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Telling Your Leadership Story cont.	4/5	5:00 – 7:30 pm
Exploring Next Steps: Leadership & You	4/30	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Youth Leadership Initiative Showcase*	5/3	5:00 – 7:30 pm

*Indicates required session

Attendance Policy

- Be sure you can commit to all the class dates and have discussed these with your parent/guardian, as well as your teachers, employer, coaches, etc.
 - Parent(s)/guardian(s) will need to notify your school for approval as an excused absence
 - Students will need to make up classroom assignments.
- A student will miss **no more** than two experience days to be eligible to successfully complete the program.
- The times above are start times. Students are expected to be on time. If a student arrives late without prior arrangements, they will be considered late, negatively impacting their DMACC points.
- Students may need to complete a make-up if they miss any portion of class.
- Orientation, Opening Retreat, Networking, Leadership Storytelling, and YLI Showcase are required sessions.
- In extreme circumstances, an appeal may be submitted to the Lead DSM Learning and Programs Director.
 - Note: Students should not attend a session if they have signs of illness.

Session Locations

Our sessions will take place at organizations throughout the Greater Des Moines area. One week ahead of each experience day, we will provide an agenda and meeting location. We do not provide transportation to or from the sessions.