

IHL Youth Summit Pathway



YAC Advocate: Channel your passion for IHL and community impact by participating in a local IHL YAC Team.



Apply: Submit an application highlighting your campaign activities and involvement throughout the year, including a personal reference from your coordinator.



Virtual Participation: Take part in virtual summit activities and group work before the in-person trip.



Summit in Washington, D.C.: Attend the prestigious IHL Youth Action Campaign Summit in Washington, D.C.



Advancement Opportunities: Gain the opportunity to apply for internship positions with the IHL Team.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW YOUTH ACTION CAMPAIGN

EDUCATE

Learn the core concepts of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

ENGAGE

Raise awareness about an IHL topic by designing a peer-to-peer educational campaign.

EMPOWER

Become leaders in IHL discourse and inform the public about the laws of war.



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW YOUTH ACTION CAMPAIGN

Annual Youth Summit
Washington, DC July 27–30, 2026



American Red Cross

Int'l Humanitarian Law
Youth Action Campaign



American Red Cross

What is the Annual IHL Youth Summit?

The IHL YAC Summit is the culminating event of the IHL Youth Action Campaign year. Each Spring, a select number of outstanding advocates and JROTC Cadets are invited to Washington, D.C. on a fully-funded trip that develops their personal skills, grows their network, and expands their knowledge of IHL.

Summit participants are selected from around the world by a panel of Red Cross professionals to represent their regions and divisions. This incredible opportunity reflects one of the highest honors within the IHL YAC program and is a significant achievement for attendees.

Virtual Activities

During the weeks leading up to the in-person trip, Summit Representatives will engage in virtual workshops, prepare campaign showcase presentations, engage with Red Cross leaders, and participate in youth-led events. These activities will build leadership skills and introduce the next year's IHL YAC theme.



Washington, D.C.

Following the virtual activity weeks, Summit Representatives will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about the realities of IHL and how professionals from the U.S. government, military, and other organizations work in this field.

Activity Highlights from Past IHL Youth Summits:

- Visiting the U.S. State Department & Pentagon
- Exploring world famous museums
- Meeting American Red Cross Leadership
- Hands-on Teambuilding Activities
- Political Discourse with Lawmakers

For more information email
IHLyouth@redcross.org
or visit our web page at
redcross.org/YAC



**American
Red Cross**

FAQ

How can I attend the Youth Summit?

To apply, fill out the online application on redcross.org/YAC by the April 1st deadline.

How much does it cost to participate?

The cost of travel, lodging and meals during the event is covered by the Red Cross. However, attendees are responsible for meals while traveling and any personal spending money.

How do I get to Washington D.C.?

Travel arrangements, whether by airplane or train, depend on your home location and are coordinated and paid for by the Red Cross team. Travel chaperones are not guaranteed.

Where in Washington, DC is it held?

The Youth Summit will be based at the historic American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Attendees will visit other D.C. locations as well.

What is the time commitment?

Throughout the month of July, you will need to dedicate significant time to virtual activities and group tasks. The in-person summit includes two full travel days and two days of scheduled, all-day activities.

Is there an age requirement?

You must be at least 15 years old to attend the summit. Advocates up to 24 years old are welcome to apply.

