



Plano Youth Leadership

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

ALUMNI PROFILE
Jack Wang
Class X

Plano Youth Leadership's motto is "Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow." When it comes to leadership, PYL alumni Jack Wang has wasted no time in putting his newly-acquired skills to use. Jack recently took time away from his busy schedule to reflect on his PYL experience and his plans for the future.

What motivated you to apply for the PYL program?

"I have always been fascinated by the concept of leadership, and I have enjoyed reading about great leaders, so I had a **strong desire to pursue leadership** myself. Some of my older friends were in PYL at the time, and they recommended the program to me as a fun way to meet new people and learn about leadership."

Did the program meet or exceed your expectations? In what ways?

"I was a little skeptical at first because I had not heard much about PYL previously, but it definitely far exceeded my expectations. My peers in PYL were all enormously gifted individuals, but their enthusiasm to learn and lead really livened up the atmosphere. It was also an **amazing experience to interact with leaders in our own community and see the spirit of philanthropy at work.**"

Describe how you've benefited from your PYL experience.

"Many of the exercises and sessions focused on interaction and working with others. These experiences taught me many nuances of leadership that were crucial when I assumed the role of President of the Speech and Debate Club. Interacting with my peers at PYL helped me learn how to best communicate with my fellow club officers and find the best way to utilize everyone's abilities. These lessons were also invaluable when I worked as a research assistant in a university genetics lab. **PYL taught me how to effectively communicate with adult professionals**, which led to a great experience with laboratory research."

What are your plans for the future?

"I plan to major in biochemistry in college. I also plan to continue tutoring middle school students and to participate in student court associations in college. After my undergraduate degree, I hope to pursue a master's degree and eventually a doctorate in molecular biology in order to become a biology research scientist. **I aspire to improve our quality of life through the growing understanding of biochemical and genetic mechanisms of life.**"

How do you plan to use what you learned in PYL in the future?

"PYL has given me invaluable lessons in interacting with people. **I will employ these communication skills in college and the workplace to get effective results.**"

What are you doing to give back to the PYL program?

"I was fortunate to have been elected to be a student advisor member of the PYL Board. As a voting Board member, I **contribute ideas in public outreach, curriculum, and student selection.** Overall, it has been very fun and stimulating to meet and work with adult professionals on the Board.

Would you recommend PYL to your friends who are still in high school? If so, why?

"Yes, I would highly recommend PYL to my friends, family, and everyone who is eligible. **PYL provides invaluable resources that help each participant grow and develop, not only as a student and a leader, but also as a person.** I graduated from PYL with greater leadership skills, and more importantly, an acknowledgement of the importance of philanthropy."

ABOUT PLANO YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Founded in 1995, Plano Youth Leadership (PYL) is dedicated to training students in leadership techniques and community awareness to prepare them to make a positive impact on the quality of life in the Plano community. Each year, approximately 30 students are selected to participate in the program. These students spend the school year taking part in a curriculum designed to broaden their leadership horizons.

Plano Youth Leadership accepts applications from mid-January through early April of each year for the following year's program. Students who are currently enrolled in the 9th grade and planning to enter the 10th grade during the next school year are eligible to apply if they reside in the area serviced by the Plano Independent School District (PISD), whether attending public school (PISD or non-PISD), private school or home school. An application form is available on the PYL website at www.planoyouthleadership.org

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— **Jack Wang, Class X**

