



Youth Ambassadors Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply?

- Please visit [this webpage](#) to begin your application online. You will need an email address to create a User ID to access the site.
 - Once you are logged in, select the program you are interested in from the **program listing** and select your **application type** (Student or Adult Mentor). Click on the **begin application** link to access your program's application.
 - *Please remember that you must be a citizen of the country you are representing on the exchange.*
 - Select if you are a student or adult applicant and follow the instructions.
- Having trouble applying? Email youthambassadors@worldlearning.org
- You must submit supporting documents as outlined within the application. Students must submit two letters of recommendation and parent/guardian permission. Adults must submit two letters of recommendation and a resume/CV.

What is the cost of this program?

- There is no application fee for applicants.
- The U.S. Government will pay for international transportation to and from the United States, orientations, program and visa fees and administration, site visits and seminars, lodging and meals, some cultural activities, educational materials, and accident and sickness insurance while abroad. Participants will stay with volunteer host families and in youth conference centers.
- Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (copying, mailing, photographs, etc.), passport fees, vaccination fees (if applicable) and spending money for souvenirs and other items in the United States.

I go to school/work. How can I take off three weeks?

- Youth Ambassador Programs are highly educational. We strongly suggest that you apply even if you are not sure you have permission to miss work/class yet. We are able to provide official letters detailing the program academic and professional benefits. If you have questions, please contact us at youthambassadors@worldlearning.org

What do I need to apply?

- One photo of yourself
- Most recent academic record
- Copy of valid passport if possible (*it is not mandatory to have a passport to apply to the program*)
- Parental consent form
- Two Letters of Recommendation utilizing the Youth Ambassadors provided form (*available on the Letters of Recommendation tab of the application*)

- The Letters of Recommendation must be submitted with your application for it to be considered eligible. We recommend providing your references with the provided recommendation form as soon as possible and advising them of the deadline.

SELECTION PROCESS

Can siblings apply to the Youth Ambassadors Program?

- Yes, siblings can apply to the Youth Ambassadors Program if they meet all eligibility requirements.

Do I need a passport to apply?

- No, however if selected, you will need a passport for the program that is valid for 6-months following the exchange (Ex: your exchange takes place in March, your passport should be valid through September). If you do not already have a passport, we strongly suggest that you apply for a passport upon notification of being a Semi-Finalist.

What are the criteria for selection?

Students will be evaluated on the following factors:

- a demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and civic activities;
- ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and tolerate the opinions of others;
- leadership potential;
- good social and communication skills;
- good academic performance;
- an energetic, positive attitude; and
- ability to implement projects that benefit the applicant's school and/or community.

Adult applicants will be evaluated on the following factors:

- a demonstrated interest in and commitment to service in their local regions;
- demonstrated history of supporting youth activities;
- strong record in teaching and/or youth programs;
- demonstrated leadership ability;
- ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups of students and peers and tolerate the opinions of others; and
- commitment to working with youth after the project to help them implement projects.

Are there language requirements for the exchange?

- **Exchanges to the United States:** There are different language requirements for U.S. based exchanges. Look at the program application for specific language requirements.
- **Exchanges for U.S. Participants:** Exchange activities in Argentina/Chile, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay/Uruguay and Ecuador are conducted in Spanish. Interested applicants should have studied Spanish for at least two years in school, or have intermediate level Spanish proficiency. The Brazil program does not have a language requirement. However, any ability in Portuguese or Spanish would be considered useful in being successful in the Brazil program.

Will I receive confirmation that my application has been received? When will I know if I've been accepted?

- Yes. You will receive an email to inform you your application is complete and has been received after submitting all required forms. You may also refer to the progress meter.
- Yes, you will receive an email to inform you of your status- Not Selected or Semi-Finalist. All Semi-Finalists will receive an invitation for an in-person, phone or Skype interview prior to final selection. Semi-Finalists will receive an email after their interview informing them of their new status- Not Selected or Finalist.

What if I am not accepted to the Youth Ambassadors Program this year; can I apply again next year?

- Yes, provided you meet the eligibility criteria again next year.

If selected...

- Apply for a passport **immediately** if you do not have one already;
- Additional information and materials will be provided.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about the application or program?

- Please send all questions about the program to youthambassadors@worldlearning.org.