



STUDENT PARTICIPANT US YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM - 2019 CYCLE

OUTBOUND APPLICATION SAMPLE

Background

The U.S. Youth Ambassadors (USYA) Program offers five separate three-week exchange programs for high school youth (ages 15-17) and adult educators. Participants will focus on the program themes of civic education, leadership and community service through activities such as site meetings, experiential learning activities, leadership trainings, civic participation at the community level, mentoring by community, business and NGO leaders and volunteer programs.

Participating countries include: Argentina/Chile, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Ecuador. Exchange activities in Argentina/Chile, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Ecuador are conducted in Spanish; interested applicants should have intermediate Spanish proficiency. Exchange activities in Brazil are conducted in English.

Youth Ambassadors is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government. Exchanges will take place between June and August, and are implemented in partnership with Amigos de las Américas, Georgetown University and World Learning.

Eligibility Requirements

- 15 to 17 years old at the start of the exchange
- Be citizens of the country they are representing on the exchange;
- Have at least one semester of school remaining after program participation
- Demonstrate leadership aptitude and an interest in community service and in the program theme
- Exhibit flexibility, maturity, integrity, good social skills, and open-mindedness
- Have the motivation necessary to be active and successful exchange participants



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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply?

- Having trouble applying? Email youthambassadors@worldlearning.org
- You must submit supporting documents as outlined within the application. Students must submit two letters of recommendation, a photo of yourself, and parent/guardian permission. Adults must submit two letters of recommendation, a photo of yourself, 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

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?

- A passport is not required to submit your application to the program. However, if accepted into the program, please apply for your passport immediately upon notification of your status as a finalist or alternate. Please be advised that a passport, valid for 6 months after the program end date, is required for participation in this program.

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.

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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?

- Programs have different language requirements. Look at the program application for specific language requirements.

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 will also receive an email to inform you of your status- Not Selected or Semi-Finalist. All Semi-Finalists will receive an invitation for an interview, and 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

2019 STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

This is a **SAMPLE APPLICATION** for the 2018 Youth Ambassadors Program.

Application periods vary by country and program and can be viewed at youthambassadors.worldlearning.org.

Please carefully read this application form before beginning your online application. You must answer all the questions and submit all the required documentation for your application to be considered eligible. If some questions do not apply please write N/A (not applicable).

Complete the application online at:

youthambassadors.worldlearning.org

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Please send the following documentation with your application*:

1. Most recent academic record
2. Copy of valid passport if possible (it is not mandatory to have a passport to apply to the program)
3. Parental consent form
4. Letter of Recommendation #1
5. Letter of Recommendation #2

Letter #1 should be from a teacher at your school or language institution.

Letter #2 should be from an adult leader at an organization where you have volunteered, or held a position of leadership or active membership for at least one year.

Both recommendations should be by an adult who is not related to you. The adult should know you well enough to talk about your leadership abilities, character, and ability to handle situations under pressure.

Please make sure that your recommender includes your full name in your letter of recommendation and utilizes the Youth Ambassadors provided form.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: _____

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Suffix

Preferred Name if not First Name

Government ID Number

*This is the unique number assigned to you
by the national government (e.g., SSN, DNI, RUN, BIN, etc)*

Gender

Date of Birth (month/day/year)

Place of Birth (city, state/province, country)

Country of Citizenship

*If you have dual citizenship, please list
all the countries of which you are a citizen*

Ethnic Origin

We encourage people with disabilities and from other diverse backgrounds to apply. Opportunities are open to people regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, or sexual identity.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: _____

Home

Mobile/Cell

Email: _____

Facebook: _____

LinkedIn: _____

Current address: _____

(please include street name and number, postal code, city, state/province)

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Mailing address: _____
(if different from
current address) _____

(please include street name and number, postal code, city, state/province)

SURVEY

How did you first hear about the exchange program? Please be as specific as possible.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Current School Name: _____ Type: Public Private Other

School Address: _____

_____ *(please include street name and number, postal code, city, state/province)*

Grade Level (what year of schooling you are currently in): _____

Grade Point Average: _____

Did you attach your most recent academic record? Yes No

Extracurricular and Volunteer Activities – Please describe any extracurricular activities that you are involved with and what they mean to you. Examples of extracurricular activities are school clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, and community service activities. **Please also include how you have been involved and for how long.**

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PARENT/GUARDIAN

Family: _____
Number of people in your household Family & household income per month
(please indicate currency type)

Parent/Guardian 1: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Relation to you (check one): Father Mother Guardian

Address: _____
(please include street name and number, postal code, city)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employment/occupation: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Relation to you (check one): Father Mother Guardian

Address: _____
(please include street name and number, postal code, city)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employment/occupation: _____

Emergency contact: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Relation to you: _____

Address: _____
(please include street name and number, postal code, city)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Did you attach a completed parental consent form? Yes No

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Do you have a valid passport? Yes No

A passport is not required to submit your application to the program. However, if accepted into the program, please apply for your passport immediately upon notification of your status as a finalist or alternate. Please be advised that a passport, valid for 6 months after the program end date, is required for participation in this program.

If yes, please provide the following information:

Passport Number: _____ Place of Issue: _____
Issuing Country: _____ Date of expiration: _____
(month/day/year)

Please attach a copy of your passport with the application.

Have you ever visited or lived anywhere outside of the United States? Yes No

If the answer is yes, please explain the length and reason for your trip: _____

PROGRAM PLACEMENT

Please indicate your country and subtheme preferences for a U.S. Youth Ambassadors exchange. *The Youth Ambassadors Team will do its best to take program preferences into consideration, however we cannot guarantee specific U.S. Youth Ambassadors program availability we encourage all applicants to be flexible regarding program placements.*

- Argentina & Chile – *Multiculturalism and Civic Activism*
- Brazil – *Social Justice and Volunteerism*
- Dominican Republic – *Entrepreneurship and Environmental Protection*
- Ecuador – *Social Entrepreneurship*
- Paraguay - *Social Entrepreneurship*

Explain your choice of program(s). Your explanation will be reviewed as part of your application and considered during the selection process. Please focus the explanation on your first preference. Your answer should not exceed 250 words.

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

Do you speak any languages other than English? Yes No

If the answer is yes, which language do you speak? : _____

How many years have you studied this language? _____ Where did you study? _____

Is this language spoken at home? Yes No

How would you describe your **spoken** skills? Poor Fair Good Excellent Native

How would you describe your **written** skills? Poor Fair Good Excellent Native

SHORT ESSAY

In 400 words or less, please write an essay addressing the following questions. Write your response in clear English and in your own words. Plagiarism will result in the removal of your application from consideration. This means that if your answers are exactly the same as those of another applicant, both people will be disqualified.

- Why do you want to participate in the exchange program, and what will you contribute if you are chosen?
- What makes you a good leader? Using two examples, describe how you are a leader in your school, community and/or home.
- You will be required to do a community service project when you return home. Do you have an idea for a possible project that would positively impact your community?

LONG ESSAYS

Please respond to ALL three essay questions below. Write your answers in clear English and in your own words. Plagiarism will result in the removal of your application from consideration. This means that if your answers are exactly the same as those of another applicant, both people will be disqualified.

- 1. How does the Youth Ambassadors Program, as you know it, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community, and future? Please include some of your own wishes for the future and how they relate to the Youth Ambassadors program. (Word Count 350-500 words)**

- 3. An exciting aspect of these programs is the home stay component in the exchange country. Participants will stay with a host family who will share their home and time with participants without compensation. What attributes do you have that would make you a good guest for a host family? What would you share about your life and the United States? (Word Count 350-500 words)**

I certify that the information contained in this application, including all attachments and supporting credentials, is complete and correct.

Applicant's signature

Date



Letter of Recommendation for the Youth Ambassadors Program #1

Instructions: Recommendations should be made by one (1) teacher at your school or language institution and one (1) from an adult leader at an organization where you have volunteered, or held a position of leadership or active membership for at least on year. These should be from adults who know the applicant and has knowledge of academic, personal and leadership qualities. The recommendations cannot be from a family member or friends.

This recommendation must be typed, or if it is written by hand it must be legible. The recommendations must be submitted with your complete application to be eligible. **LETTERS ARRIVING LATE MAY DISQUALIFY AN APPLICATION.**

Our program contains a special type of educational experience. This applicant will be involved in a three-week exchange program overseas, having direct contact with youth and adults. The applicant will be immersed in an academic environment with challenges and that will require intercultural adjustment and a coexistence as a member of a host family. To be successful, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to get used to people of different social and cultural levels. Please be very honest in your evaluation of the applicant to help us determine whether or not this person is able to participate in this type of program. Please indicate, by checking the appropriate spaces, your evaluation of the characteristics of this person. If you wish, you can add comments, if so, please include another page.

To be filled out by the applicant:	

<i>Last Name, First Name (as provided on your application)</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
To be filled out by the person giving the reference:	
_____	_____
<i>Full Name</i>	<i>Work/Title</i>
_____	_____
<i>Relationship to the applicant</i>	<i>Place of Employment</i>
_____	_____
<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>

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	Excellent	Good	Normal	Poor	Not Sure
Consideration and respect for others and their perspectives					
Good judgment and common sense					
Potential to be a leader					
Ability to follow orders with a good attitude					
Initiative					
Sense of responsibility					
Ability to engage with new situations					
Intellectual curiosity and imagination					
Ability to express oneself clearly					
Participation in the community and in extra-curricular activities					
Ability to complete and continue projects					
Sense of humor					

Comments:

What are the strong characteristics of this applicant?

How well do you think the applicant can adapt the student to new situations with a family from another culture?

How well do you think the applicant can collaborate with other members of your travel group to solve problems?

Please comment on the general ability of the student to participate in the program, including intercultural and leadership skills.

Name _____

Signature _____



Letter of Recommendation for the Youth Ambassadors Program #2

Instructions: Recommendations should be made by one (1) teacher at your school or language institution and one (1) from an adult leader at an organization where you have volunteered, or held a position of leadership or active membership for at least on year. These should be from adults who know the applicant and has knowledge of academic, personal and leadership qualities. The recommendations cannot be from a family member or friends.

This recommendation must be typed, or if it is written by hand it must be legible. The recommendations must be submitted with your complete application to be eligible. **LETTERS ARRIVING LATE MAY DISQUALIFY AN APPLICATION.**

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<i>Last Name, First Name (as provided on your application)</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
To be filled out by the person giving the reference:	
_____	_____
<i>Full Name</i>	<i>Work/Title</i>
_____	_____
<i>Relationship to the applicant</i>	<i>Place of Employment</i>
_____	_____
<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>

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Good judgment and common sense					
Potential to be a leader					
Ability to follow orders with a good attitude					
Initiative					
Sense of responsibility					
Ability to engage with new situations					
Intellectual curiosity and imagination					
Ability to express oneself clearly					
Participation in the community and in extra-curricular activities					
Ability to complete and continue projects					
Sense of humor					

Comments:

What are the strong characteristics of this applicant?

How well do you think the applicant can adapt the student to new situations with a family from another culture?

How well do you think the applicant can collaborate with other members of your travel group to solve problems?

Please comment on the general ability of the student to participate in the program, including intercultural and leadership skills.

Name _____

Signature _____



Consent of Parents or Legal Guardians of Secondary Students

All applicants must submit an authorization signed by the parent or legal guardian along with the application, giving permission to participate in the Young Ambassadors Program. If this authorization is missing, the request will not be considered.

Applicant Name:

Parent/Guardian 1:

Full Name and Relationship to applicant

Address

Phone and Email

Parent/Guardian 2:

Full Name and Relationship to applicant

Address

Phone and Email

Other Family

Names

Relationship

My son / daughter has my permission to request participation in the Young Ambassador Program and to participate fully if accepted.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

I guarantee that all information on this application is true and I agree that if the applicant is selected he / she will participate in ALL activities in the United States and abroad, including orientation before leaving and activities to follow.

I also agree that if I am selected for the program I will participate fully for the duration of the program.

Signature of the Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

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