



# ADULT MENTOR

## US YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM - 2020 CYCLE

### OUTBOUND APPLICATION

#### Background

The U.S. Youth Ambassadors (USYA) Program offers six 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, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Ecuador. Exchange activities in Argentina/Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Ecuador are conducted in Spanish; interested applicants should have intermediate Spanish proficiency. Exchange activities in Belize and 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

- ✓ I am a teacher or community leader who works with youth and have a demonstrated interest in assisting youth to become productive and responsible members of society;
- ✓ I am prepared to support youth participants in developing and implementing community projects in their own communities after the exchange;
- ✓ I am a citizen and resident of the United States;
- ✓ I have sufficient proficiency in the language of the exchange (English or Spanish) to participate fully in all exchange activities; and
- ✓ I am able to pass a criminal background record check and will submit a record as part of my application.



This material is free. Its sale is illegal.

Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## How do I apply?

- Having trouble applying? Email [youthambassadors@worldlearning.org](mailto: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 or in your host country.

## 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](mailto: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.

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**

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.
- Upon selection as a Finalist, you will be required to submit your criminal history record prepared by the local or federal Police.

**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](mailto:youthambassadors@worldlearning.org)

# 2020 ADULT MENTOR APPLICATION FORM

## **This is a paper application for the 2020 Youth Ambassadors Program.**

Application periods vary by country and program and can be viewed at [youthambassadors.org](http://youthambassadors.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.org](http://youthambassadors.org)

## **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED**

Please send the following documentation with your application\*:

1. Resume/CV:
  - a. Please attach a summarized resume/CV no more than a page long.
2. Copy of valid passport if possible (it is not mandatory to have a passport to apply to the program)
3. Two letters of recommendation - *Please use the Youth Ambassadors provided form*
  - a. The letters of recommendation should be on separate sheets of paper. The forms should be from a supervisor, professor, or other professional who is not related to you. Please make sure that your recommender includes your full name in your letter of recommendation and utilizes the Youth Ambassadors provided form.

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**



**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Name:**

_____	_____	_____
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
_____	_____	
Suffix	Preferred Name if not First Name	

**Identity:**

*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.*

_____	_____	_____
Gender <i>(Options: Male, Female, prefer not to disclose)</i>	Additional gender category/identity, <i>Please specify</i>	Date of Birth (month/day/year) <i>(You must be between 15 and 18 years of age at the time of the program to participate)</i>

_____	_____	_____
Place of Birth <i>(Please include the city, state/providence and country Where you were born)</i>	Country of Citizenship <i>If you have dual citizenship, please list all the countries of which you are a citizen</i>	Ethnic Origin <i>(optional)</i>

**Health Information:**

*It is the goal of the Youth Ambassadors Team and its partners to ensure the full and equal participation of everybody regardless of gender, race, sexual preference, disability or otherwise. It is our policy to make necessary, reasonable accommodations to ensure that our programs are accessible.*

Would you require a reasonable accommodation, as a result of a physical or mental impairment, to enable you to access the full benefit of this program? If not applicable, write N/A

_____	_____
Yes	No

If yes, Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Mobile/Cell

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn: \_\_\_\_\_

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(please include street name and number, postal code, city, state/province)

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from current address) \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include street name and number, postal code, city, state/province)

**Emergency contact:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Relation to you: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEY**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**PROFESSIONAL WORK INFORMATION**

What is your current occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please write the name of your employer. If you are self-employed, please write "self-employed."*

School/Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(please include street name and number, postal code, city, state/province)

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please include their title, first, and last names.*

**Please attach a summarized resume/CV no more than a page long.**

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**

Have you ever received a scholarship from the US Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs?  Yes  No

If YES, please provide a brief description of the name of the scholarship and date you participated.

---

**LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

Leadership and Community Service. *How does your work experience or volunteer activities demonstrate your leadership ability and commitment to service in your community?*

---

---

---

---

Youth Work Experience: *Please list all activities you currently participate in, volunteer with, or for which you serve as an advisor/mentor to youth or young adults (i.e. school clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, community service activities, leisure time activities). Please briefly describe the activity, your role, and length of involvement.*

---

---

---

---

**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**

The Youth Ambassadors team will do its best to take program preferences into consideration, however we cannot guarantee specific program placement; we encourage applicants to be flexible regarding program placements. Please note that applicants selected to the following programs must have an intermediate level of Spanish or equivalent proficiency: Argentina and Chile; Costa Rica; Ecuador; and Uruguay.

Using the table below, please select three Exchange Programs that are most interesting to you, in no particular order. Please select the following program offerings based on the country you are most interested in participating in. Please only select three countries.

- Argentina & Chile (Spanish)
- Belize (English)
- Brazil (English)
- Costa Rica (Spanish)
- Ecuador (Spanish)
- Uruguay (Spanish)

In 175 words or less, provide a brief explanation of your exchange preference(s). Consider concentrating your explanation on your first preference.

---

---

---

Using the table below, please select the sub-themes that are most interesting to you in no particular order. Please select 3 subthemes only.

- Environmental Protection
- Multiculturalism & Civic Activism
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Social Justice & Volunteerism

Please indicate if you have any date restrictions for summer 2020. US Youth Ambassadors programs will take place from June to August. While date restrictions will not affect selection, they will be considered for exchange placement.

---

---

---

---

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**



**LANGUAGE ABILITIES**

What is your native (maternal) language? If you are bilingual, please list both of your native/maternal languages. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have **Spanish Language Skills**?  Yes  No

If Yes, how long have you studied Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you study Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_

Is Spanish spoken at home?  Yes  No

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

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

**ESSAYS**

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. Although essays serve as a way to evaluate your written English skills, you will also be evaluated on the content of your responses and the ideas presented in your essays.

I confirm that this essay is my own work and that I understand that plagiarism will result in the removal of my application from consideration for the Youth Ambassadors Program.

**SHORT ESSAY RESPONSE**

*Educators provide leadership, mentorship and project management support during the cultural exchange and follow-on segment of the Youth Ambassadors Program. In 300 words or less, please describe what motivated you to apply to this program and how this exchange will benefit your work with young adults in your community? What professional goals do you hope to obtain as a result of participating in this program?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**SCENARIOS**

Part of your role as an adult educator is working with staff to support Youth Ambassadors during the cultural exchange, and during the follow-on segment, where completing a community service project is required for youth participants. In 300 words or less, respond to one of the following two scenarios:

**Scenario 1:** As an adult participant you will be responsible for traveling with the students, many who have never traveled outside of their home country before. What would you do if you were traveling with a group of students and a student became ill right before you boarded the plane to return home? How would you handle the situation? What would be your plan regarding the other students? How would you communicate with the other adults?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Scenario 2:** You've returned home after the cultural exchange. What strategies will you implement to help motivate the Youth Ambassadors to be involved in their communities? How will you help them succeed in implementing their community service projects?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



By checking this box, I verify all the information in this application is true. I agree that if chosen for the program, I will participate in ALL program activities, including the pre-departure orientation and follow-on activities.

---

Applicant's signature

---

Date



## Letter of Recommendation for the Youth Ambassadors Program #1

**Instructions:** Recommendations should be made by **two (2) individuals (colleagues or supervisor)** who know the applicant and has knowledge of their professional, 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.

<b>To be filled out by the applicant:</b>	
_____	
<i>Last Name, First Name (as provided on your application)</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
<b>To be filled out by the person giving the reference:</b>	
_____	_____
<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>

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**

	Excellent	Good	Normal	Poor	Not Sure
Consideration and respect for others and their perspectives					
Good judgment and common sense					
Leadership potential					
Ability to take direction cheerfully					
Initiative					
Sense of responsibility					
Ability to adjust and cope with new situations					
Intellectual curiosity and imagination					
Ability to express self					
Participation in the community and in extra-curricular activities					
Ability to complete and continue projects					
Sense of humor					
Ability to mentor youth					

In what capacity have you known this applicant?

How long have you known the applicant? From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** Please make a candid evaluation of the applicant and evaluate your ability to participate in an educational exchange program in Central or South America with U.S. youth. Please focus on the following:

- \* Preparation for living abroad: maturity, adaptability and interpersonal skills
- \* How do you think this experience abroad will be beneficial in a professional and personal sense?
- \* Strong and weak characteristics
- \* Please comment on the applicant's chances of success in this program, including intercultural and leadership skills.
- \* Please comment on the candidate's ability to mentor youth.
- \* Skill in the Spanish language (if known).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**



## Letter of Recommendation for the Youth Ambassadors Program #2

**Instructions:** Recommendations should be made by two (2) individuals (colleagues or supervisor) who know the applicant and has knowledge of their professional, 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.

<b>To be filled out by the applicant:</b>	
_____	
<i>Last Name, First Name (as provided on your application)</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
<b>To be filled out by the person giving the reference:</b>	
_____	_____
<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>

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**

	Excellent	Good	Normal	Poor	Not Sure
Consideration and respect for others and their perspectives					
Good judgment and common sense					
Leadership potential					
Ability to take direction cheerfully					
Initiative					
Sense of responsibility					
Ability to adjust and cope with new situations					
Intellectual curiosity and imagination					
Ability to express self					
Participation in the community and in extra-curricular activities					
Ability to complete and continue projects					
Sense of humor					
Ability to mentor youth					

In what capacity have you known this applicant?

How long have you known the applicant? From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** Please make a candid evaluation of the applicant and evaluate your ability to participate in an educational exchange program in Central or South America with U.S. youth. Please focus on the following:

- \* Preparation for living abroad: maturity, adaptability and interpersonal skills
- \* How do you think this experience abroad will be beneficial in a professional and personal sense?
- \* Strong and weak characteristics
- \* Please comment on the applicant's chances of success in this program, including intercultural and leadership skills.
- \* Please comment on the candidate's ability to mentor youth.
- \* Skill in the Spanish language (if known).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**This material is free. Its sale is illegal.**

**Any false information submitted will cause the immediate disqualification of the candidate**