



STUDENT PARTICIPANT 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 15-18) 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 high school student, with at least one semester of high school remaining after the exchange program;
- I will be between the ages of 15 and 18 years old at the start of the exchange and my birthdate falls between September 1, 2001 and June 1, 2005;
- I am a citizen and resident of the United States;
- I have a demonstrated interest in leadership, community service and civic education;
- I am prepared to commit to the demands necessary to participate in, and complete the follow-on activities;
- I have sufficient proficiency in the language of the exchange (English or Spanish) to participate fully in all exchange activities.



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
- 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

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.

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

2020 STUDENT 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.

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

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.

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: _____

This material is free. Its sale is illegal.

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

Did you attach a completed parental consent form? Yes No

Do you have any family members who are applying for Youth Ambassadors this year? Each applicant is evaluated independently. Yes No

If YES, please provide the name of the program and date you participated.

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: _____

Do you have any upcoming trips to another country in the next 6 months/year? Yes No

If yes, please provide a brief description of dates, length and nature of your stay(s):

This material is free. Its sale is illegal.

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

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.

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? _____

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 **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:

Last Name, First Name (as provided on your application)

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)

Email Address

To be filled out by the person giving the reference:

Full Name

Work/Title

Relationship to the applicant

Place of Employment

Email Address

Phone Number

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					
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.**

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>

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					
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