



## Youth Leadership Program with Algeria Information for Applicants

**Application Deadline:** [March, 31, 2014](#)

**Program Description:** Secondary school students and educators from Algeria are invited to apply for participation in the Youth Leadership Program with Algeria. The four-week U.S.-based exchange program, tentatively scheduled for June 12 – July 8, 2014, will focus on the primary themes of civic education, youth leadership development, respect for diversity, and community engagement, and the sub-theme of applied communications. Participants will engage in a variety of activities, such as workshops on leadership and service, community site visits related to the program themes, interactive training and discussion groups, small group work, presentations, local cultural activities, homestays with American families, and other activities.

This is an intensive program with three segments: A pre-departure orientation in Algiers; a four-week program in Reno, Nevada that will offer 24 students and three educators the opportunity to explore the principles of leadership and community engagement in the United States; and follow-on activities, where participants will conduct projects in their home communities. The program will be intensive, academic, and highly interactive. The program sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

### **What else do I need to know?**

The United States Government, in conjunction with its private partners, will pay for ground transportation to and from Algiers, international transportation to and from the United States, orientations and workshops, program fees and administration, site visits and seminars, lodging and most meals, some cultural activities, educational materials, accident and sickness coverage, and a modest amount of pocket money. Participants will stay with volunteer host families.

Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (copying, mailing, photographs, etc.), passport fees, and spending money for souvenirs, telephone calls, and other personal items in the United States.

Participants will travel to the United States on J-1 exchange visitor visas provided through this program. By accepting this visa, participants will be subject to a two-year home residency requirement, meaning they must return to and live in Algeria for a total of two years before they would be eligible for an immigrant or temporary worker U.S. visa. This does not restrict other types of visas, however, so this would not prevent you from being able to apply for a student visa to attend university, for example.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Student applicants must....

- **Have a valid passport at the time of application**
- be at least 15 years old and not more than 17 years old by the start date of the exchange
- have at least one year of high school remaining
- have demonstrated leadership in their schools and/or communities
- exhibit an appropriate level of maturity, open-mindedness, and sociability within a group
- have good communication skills in English
- have permission from both parents and schools to participate in the entire program.

Adult applicants must ...

- have demonstrated leadership skills
- be interested in helping youth develop their potential
- be committed to working with other participants of the program after their return from the United States
- have travel experience outside their home state or province, such as to the national capital; international travel experience is not required
- have good communication skills in English

### **What are the criteria for selection?**

Students will be evaluated on the following characteristics:

- demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and participate in civic activities
- leadership potential
- good social skills
- good academic performance
- good communication skills in English
- ability to implement projects that benefit the applicant's school and community

Adult applicants will be evaluated on the following factors:

- demonstrated history of supporting youth activities
- strong record in teaching and/or youth programs
- demonstrated leadership
- good communication skills in English
- commitment to working with youth after the project to help them implement projects

### **How do I apply?**

Complete an application form and submit it to the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Algiers by **March, 31, 2014**. Take special care in answering the essay questions.

Submit two letters of recommendation along with the application (**also by March, 31, 2014**)  
Adults applicants should submit two letters of recommendation from senior teachers or school officials or one from a senior teacher or school official and one from a community leader who knows your experience in working with teenagers.

The Public Affairs Section will contact the applicants selected for interviews based on the criteria above, as demonstrated in the application. Interviews will take place at U.S. Embassy, Algiers during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April.

The list of finalists and alternates will be announced on or about last week of April.

### **And after that...?**

The selected participants will be receiving orientation materials in the weeks prior to the start of the program to help prepare them for the program and their trip to the United States.

A pre-departure orientation and training sessions with both students and educators as the beginning of this Leadership program will take place in early June 2014. Participants and their families will have an opportunity to speak with the Public Affairs Section about the project at that time.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, participants will travel to the United States for the exchange, and will return on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

After their return to Algeria and through the following months, participants will be responsible for completing their follow-on projects.

Thank you for your interest in the program and good luck with your applications!