



## Youth Ambassadors Program-Abaco

### Student Application

**Program Description:** The Youth Ambassadors Program is a three-week exchange, February 2-25, 2014, in the United States for high school students and adult mentors. The primary program themes are civic education, community service, and youth leadership development. Participants live with host families for the majority of the exchange and engage in leadership and civic education workshops, community service activities, visits to local schools and community organizations, project planning and development, and local cultural activities with American peers. Participants return home with action plans to bring their exchange experience to their home communities in the form of a wide range of community service projects.

#### Student applicants must:

- ✓ Be a Bahamian citizen and live in Abaco, The Bahamas (applicants with dual U.S. citizenship will not be considered)
- ✓ Possess a valid Bahamian passport
- ✓ Be between 15 and 18 years old by January 1, 2014;
- ✓ Have proficiency in English;
- ✓ Demonstrate good academic performance, leadership potential, an interest in and commitment to community service and volunteer activities;
- ✓ Demonstrate initiative, good communication, and an energetic, positive attitude;
- ✓ Have the ability to work cooperatively in a team and tolerate the opinions of others;
- ✓ Have permission from a parent or legal guardian to participate in the program.

**There is no application fee.** The United States Government will pay for all costs to participate in the program, including international travel to and from the United States, orientations, visa fees, and the exchange activities in the United States, including meals and lodging.

**Application Deadline:**

**Applications must be submitted to:**

**Questions must be addressed to:**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

McPheeMM@state.gov

Myra M. McPhee

Education and Cultural Specialist

McPheeMM@state.gov

242-322-1181 ext. 4251

**Instructions for completing this application:** Please fill out the application and answer all questions carefully and completely, in English. The information you provide on this application will provide the basis for selecting participants for this program. Semi-finalists may be contacted for a telephone interview.

# Youth Ambassadors Program: Abaco

Student Application

Answers must be typed

Please include a recent photo with your application

## Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last (Family) First Middle

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Month/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

City and Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Country of citizenship or permanent legal residence \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Male  Female

Are any members of your immediate family serving in a publicly elected or government appointed position?

Yes  No If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian Information

**\*\*Your parent or guardian must sign the application at the end\*\***

### Parent/Guardian 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to you \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from yours) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to you \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from yours) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

### Brothers/Sisters

Name Gender Age Occupation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Passport Information

Do you have a valid passport?      Yes      No

If yes, please attached a copy of your passport: passport number page and photo/bio page

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Issuing Country \_\_\_\_\_ Issuing City \_\_\_\_\_

### Travel Information

Have you ever traveled to the United States or another country?      Yes      No

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

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### Education and Activities

**\*\*Please attach your most recent transcript or academic record \*\***

School name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade \_\_\_\_\_ Year you will graduate \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you studied English? \_\_\_\_\_

List other languages you have studied below.

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years studied \_\_\_\_\_

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years studied \_\_\_\_\_

Academic subjects you are most interested in \_\_\_\_\_

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Future studies and/or possible occupations you've considered \_\_\_\_\_

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Please list all extracurricular activities you currently take part in (school clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, community service activities, leisure time activities), how long you have been involved with each, any awards or honors. **Use a separate sheet** if necessary.

**SHORT ESSAYS:** Please submit a ONE PAGE document responding to the following short answer questions.

1. Why do you want to participate in this program?
2. The program requires a home stay component, where you will stay with an American family, attend school and participate in cultural activities. How do you feel about the home stay component?
3. You will be required to do a community service project in a small group when you return home. Do you have an idea for a project that would improve your community?
4. In what ways are you an effective leader? Using two examples, describe how you are a leader in your school, community, or home.
5. During this exchange, participants will act as ambassadors for their countries. What qualities do you have that would help you fulfill this role?

### Participant Agreement/Parental Consent

I agree that all of the information in this application is true and I agree that if chosen to participate, I will participate in ALL program activities in the United States and my country, including the pre-departure orientation and follow-on activities. I also understand that I must remain with the program throughout the entire exchange and that personal travel within the United States during the program is not permitted.

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Applicant Signature

Date

I permit my child to apply for and, if selected, to participate in this program.

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Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

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Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

# YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM: Abaco

## Student Reference

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Applicant:** Please submit **two** references with your application. The forms should be from a teacher or other adult outside your family who knows you well. You may submit this form with your application OR your reference can return the signed and completed form to NassauExchanges@state.gov.

**For the Reference:** Please TYPE your responses. The student named above is applying to take part in the Youth Ambassadors Program, a three-week exchange program in the United States for students and adult mentors. The selected students will be in a challenging academic environment and intensive leadership training. To succeed, the participants must be highly motivated, and be able to adjust to living and working with people of different social and cultural backgrounds. We value your honest assessment of the applicant in helping us select the most appropriate participants. If you would like to add additional comments, we encourage you to do so. Your answers will remain confidential.

Please indicate your opinion of this applicant's ability to meet the challenges of this program

- \_\_\_\_\_ I strongly recommend this student
- \_\_\_\_\_ I recommend this student
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have minor reservations about recommending this applicant
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have major reservations about recommending this applicant
- \_\_\_\_\_ I do not recommend this student

### Please answer the following:

1. How long, and in what context or capacity, have you known this applicant?
2. What are the applicant's strengths?
3. What are the academic or personal areas in which this applicant needs improvement?
4. Please describe the applicant's behavior or attitude with respect to authority, peer relationships, responsibility, and school/work activities.
5. Do you think the applicant would adapt well to unfamiliar environments and new situations? Why or why not?

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone contact \_\_\_\_\_