

SOUTHEAST ASIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SEAYLP)

FY-2012

April 10 to May 4, 2012



The SEAYLP program is a 25 day program in the U.S. which seeks to promote high-quality leadership, civic responsibility, and civic activism among our countries' future leaders. The exchanges offer a practical examination of the principles of democracy and civil society as practiced in the United States and provide participants with training that allows them to develop their leadership skills.

Eligibility:

Students must

- be between the ages of 15 and 17 by the start date of the exchange
- be high school or first year college students currently enrolled in schools and universities in Burma
- have demonstrated leadership in their schools and/or communities
- be strong academically
- exhibit an appropriate level of maturity, open-mindedness, and sociability within a group

Adults must

- be teachers or community leaders who work with youth
- have demonstrated leadership
- be interested in helping youth develop their potential
- be committed to working with SEAYLP participants 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

The goals of the program:

- To promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of the partner countries;
- To develop a sense of civic responsibility and commitment to community development among youth;
- To develop leadership skills among secondary school students appropriate to their needs; and
- To foster relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups.

Exchange activities

They include home-stays, interaction with American peers, interactive workshops, outdoor activities, team-building exercises, with program theme elements throughout. For instance, in a program with a theme of Environmental Stewardship, the group may help weed a community garden with volunteers and do a group presentation about preservation and development issues in their home countries.

SEAYLP also contains a follow-on component. Upon their return, participants will be expected to conduct a service project in their home communities such as leading knowledge-sharing workshops, helping the needy, and participating in environmental conservation activities.