



BOLDLEADERS



Hello from the staff of BoldLeaders!

Thank you for considering the Youth Ambassadors Program for your son or daughter. We understand that although this is a wonderful opportunity, it is hard to imagine sending your student away for four weeks to a faraway country with people that you do not even know and have never met. You would not be the good parents you are if you were not a little concerned!

In this document, we do our best to answer some of the questions parents have asked us in the past, with the hope that it eases your concerns. If you have other questions that are not answered here, please feel free to contact us by phone or email (listed on the bottom of the page).

What is BoldLeaders? What is Critical Mass Leadership Education (CMLE)?

BoldLeaders is a non-profit organization started in 1998 to work with conflicting groups in Northern Ireland. Since that time we have worked with young people from all over the world. We have worked with students from Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Cyprus, Turkey, Germany, Cambodia, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and throughout the United States. We deliver programs that focus on conflict resolution, leadership, civic engagement and civic education. We work with diverse groups of cultures, races, ages, sizes and colors and pride ourselves on our commitment to inclusivity. **CMLE** is our legal name, and you may see that in several places. However BoldLeaders is our 'brand name' and that is how we usually refer to our organization and our programs.

Who is this program funded by - why is it free?!

The United States has a law known as the Fulbright-Hays Act, which enables the government of the U.S. to promote mutual understanding between the people of other countries and the United States. The Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of the Department of State pays for these programs because of money given to support this Act that is allocated by Congress. They use money that ultimately comes from the taxpayers. BoldLeaders also raises money and support from local groups and companies to help fund the program as well. As the world becomes smaller through technology, we believe that building relationships and exchanges with people from other parts of the globe is vital to learning about and appreciating each other. One of the best ways to do this is to work with young people and encourage them to explore other cultures and people by traveling to where they live.

Has BoldLeaders hosted young people from other countries before?

Yes! Since 2004 we have worked with more than 500 students from 10 different countries who have come to Colorado to participate in our programs. They have stayed for a minimum of two weeks – most groups have stayed for three or more weeks. They have all stayed with host families, traveled with us, participated in our workshops, met and worked with other organizations and more! They love our programs and many apply to return each year as a Peer Leader. As an example of how trusted we are, in one community on the island of Cyprus in 2008, (whose young people we have worked with since 2003), more than 600 students applied for 40 spots to participate in our program!

How do you make sure the Host Families will take good care of my child?

We meet every Host Family in person on several occasions. We visit with them in their home and see where your student will be sleeping and living. We talk with them at length about the program: what to expect, what they can do to learn more about the country their guest will be from, how to contact us in an emergency, and more. We ask them to fill out an application form that asks for detailed information about their family – who lives in the home, if they follow a particular diet, whether they have any pets, and why they want to be a Host Family. Finally, we conduct a “Background Check” on each member of the family over the age of 18. This is a process in the United States that allows us to find out if anyone has a criminal history or not from their past. If they do, we will not use them as a Host Family.

Many of our Host Families have hosted in the past and know how to support guests in their home who are there from places in the world that may be very different.

I am worried about ‘culture shock’ for my student. How will you help them adjust to all the differences they will be exposed to in Colorado?

It will be a shock for most of the participants, especially those from rural areas! The Embassies will do their best to inform and orient your student before they leave, and we may be able to have some of our local partners be there as well. When the group first arrives we will take time to get them warm clothes as needed and make sure they are well fed. Then we will take them to Glacier View Ranch – a beautiful and quiet retreat center in the mountains above Denver, Colorado. We will spend the first five days there and that will be a perfect way for everyone to become more familiar with the West (figuring out the plumbing, eating habits, some technology things, etc.) We will also have several students from our local program there. They have participated in our programs as well and have often traveled to other countries and so can appreciate the challenges the new participants may be facing.

Where can I find out more information about CMLE?

- You can:
- go to our website at www.BoldLeaders.org
 - send us an email to Brady@BoldLeaders.org with any questions or requests for more information.
 - Contact us by Skype – my username is [rbradyrhodes](#)
 - Contact us by phone – 011+720-341-4236