Amirah Sukurdin

"I've never thought that a stranger like me can be part of a family and a community in the US. I've met lots of amazing people that inspired me along the way. What I've experienced for 6 months can never be exchanged with anything else in this world. I gained lots of confidence: so to say, less shy. Plus, being away from my natural family helped me to become an independent and brave young girl!"

Johann Yap

"I couldn't have asked for a better host family. They opened their homes and helped me to ease my way into the 'American' way of life."

AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia

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KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE & STUDY (YES)

www.yesprograms.org

http://www.afsmas.org/go-abroad/scholarships/yes/

What is the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study?

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program was established by Congress in October 2002 in response to the events of September 11, 2001. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of State and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA) to provide scholarships for high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend up to one academic year in the U.S. Students live with host families, attend high school, engage in activities to learn about American society and values, acquire leadership skills, and help educate Americans about their countries and cultures. Starting in 2009, the YES Abroad program was established to provide a similar experience for U.S. students (15-17 years) to spend an academic year in select YES countries.

What do students do on the program?

- Live with host families
- Attend high school
- Engage in activities to learn about American society and values
- Acquire leadership skills
- Help educate Americans about their countries and cultures

Who can apply?

Student's Requirements

- Be a citizen of Malaysia
- Be enrolled in Form 5 at the time of application
- Have the equivalent of a B average or better without failling grades
- Be active in extra-curricular activities
- The program highly encourages participation from students with disabilities between the age of 15 and 17 (form 3 to 5 at the time of application)

Priority will be given to underprivileged applicants with little or no previous experience in the United States.

The program officially launched in Malaysia in 2003 in hopes to expand communication between the people of the United States and Malaysia in order to promote mutual understanding and respect. Since then, over 420 Malaysian students have completed the YES program and are now members of the YES community.

The YES program is administered in partnership with the U.S. Department of State by a consortium of non-profit organizations led by American Councils for International Education. In Malaysia, AFS Malaysia manages the YES program in partnership with the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia.

Top Ten Reasons to go on an AFS Exchange Program:

1. AFS has over 60 years' experience managing intercultural exchange program
2. Explore the world outside Malaysia
3. Become part of a new family on the other side of the world to broaden your personal and educational perspectives
4. Stand out in the job market. AFS programs prepare to develop necessary skills to stand head and shoulder above crowd in the competitive medern job market
5. Enable you to experience an international education
6. Discover the real you!
7. You'll get to live as a local in a different country without being born there!
8. To eliminate fear and prejudice among nations and you as a young ambassadors play an important role in this part
9. We connected more than 30,0000 participants from over 50 countries – Imagine having an address book full of friends from all over the world
10. We are the world's leading student exchange organization