

2012 Youth Summer Leadership Program

Application Deadline: January 31, 2012

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and the U.S. Consulates in Jeddah and Dhahran are pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the 2012 Student Leaders Program.

The Student Leaders Program is designed for undergraduate student leaders between 18 to 24 years of age from the Middle East and North Africa. The Student Leaders will participate in a six-week program at a U.S. university to begin on June 26, 2012 and end on August 7, 2012. The program consists of leadership training, community service, and educational travel. It is designed around the theme of how leadership is conceived and practiced in different capacities (governmental, community, civil society, private sector, etc.) and in different regions of the United States. The two key components of the program are an academic residency at the host institution, running approximately five weeks, and an educational study tour within the host university's geographic region, running approximately one week. The study tour is designed to directly complement and reinforce the concepts explored in the academic residency program. All participants will arrive and depart through Washington, D.C. for welcome and farewell ceremonies. Travel beyond the program's requirements will not be permitted. Please note that the program prefers participants travel unaccompanied; the program can only cover the expenses and logistics of the participant.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Competition for the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Student Leaders Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

- Is a citizen of Saudi Arabia;
- Is 18 to 24 years of age;
- Is a student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at the time of application;
- Has demonstrated English language ability;
- Commits to returning to their home country following completion of the program;
- Demonstrates strong leadership potential;
- Indicates a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- Has a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- Demonstrates a commitment to community;
- Has no prior travel experience in the United States, and limited to no study or travel experience outside home country;
- Is mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
- Is willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and active educational travel program;
- Is comfortable with campus life, sharing living accommodations while traveling with a multinational group of participants from the Middle East North Africa and with U.S. citizens, and making adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home countries; and
- Is comfortable spending a portion (nearly three weeks) of Ramadan in the United States.

To apply to the program, you should fill in the application form. Please be sure you have included all of the REQUIRED components mentioned in the last page of the application.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2012. Applications are accepted at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate care of the Public Affairs Section.