



U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia 2014 Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program (SYLEP)

The **Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program (SYLEP)** is a new 3-week exchange program in the United States for 34 Saudi undergraduate students. The program will be in June 2014, and seeks to build leadership skills, civic responsibility, appreciation for cultural diversity, and community engagement among Saudi university students. Participants will be undergraduate university students in their first through third year of study who have demonstrated leadership abilities in their schools and communities.

The goals of this program are to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Saudi Arabia, prepare youth leaders to become responsible citizens and contributing members of their communities, and develop leadership skills among Saudi youth. Participants in SYLEP will witness some of the diverse challenges facing communities in the United States. They will also observe how individuals, non-governmental organizations, and government entities address these needs through public, private and joint initiatives. They will view traditional methods of providing service, while also learning about innovative approaches that make use of technology and social media. The program will emphasize initiatives started and run by young people, that meet the needs of youth, and/or efforts that utilize young volunteers.

Over the course of the program, participants will engage in a stimulating series of trainings and experiences while interacting with dozens of American volunteers, program clients, host families, and community leaders. Participants will gain skills in leadership, program design, critical thinking, and community engagement while deepening their respect and appreciation for diversity. The 34 Saudi participants will divide into three subgroups and visit three cities in the mid-Atlantic region of the eastern United States. They will live on a college campus, and spend an extended weekend living with host families to gain more insights into American daily life. Participants will visit various organizations, learning about a wide range of project models and youth leadership opportunities, and participate in community service activities. They will also participate in a Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, DC.

Participant Eligibility

SYLEP is a merit-based competition. Students from all over Saudi Arabia are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be Saudi citizens and full-time students currently enrolled in their first, second, or third year of a university undergraduate program in Saudi Arabia. Applicants should be in good academic standing, and **proficient in written and spoken English**. Applicants should have demonstrated leadership abilities in their schools and communities, and have a desire to participate in community service activities. Students must return to Saudi Arabia after completion of the program. **Please note that we will only accept complete applications submitted by students directly. The application deadline is February 3, 2014**, and finalist interviews will be the week of February 16, 2014.

How to Apply

Please visit the US Embassy Riyadh website for the application: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/exchange-programs/saudi-young-leaders-exchange-program-sylep.html>.

For any questions, please email SYLEP@state.gov