

PRESS RELEASE



U.S. EMBASSY MADRID, SPAIN

U.S. Embassy in Spain inaugurates the Embassy Youth Council; looks for advice from Spanish youth between 18 and 30 years.

One of the first U.S. Embassy sponsored youth advisory councils in Europe.

The U.S. Embassy inaugurated today a new initiative: a council comprised of Spanish youth to offer advice on youth issues. Called the Embassy Youth Council, the purpose of the advisory council is to offer advice and propose programs and activities related to culture, society and American politics relevant to Spanish youth.

The main objectives of the Embassy Youth Council are to advise the Ambassador and staff of the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and Consulate General in Barcelona on issues affecting youth, to recommend Embassy activities of interest to youth, and to propose and develop programs as well as an annual Embassy Youth Council event that attracts other young people.

The Council consists of a group of 25 young people between 18 and 30 years old, from all over Spain, selected by the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and the Consulate General of Barcelona. A total of 150 applications received. Some of the successful candidates have had previous experience in exchange programs of the U.S. government and others have been nominated by partners of the Embassy of Spain and Andorra.

The Embassy Youth Council will allow the Embassy to acquire a better understanding of the views of Spanish young people and their issues of interest. The Embassy Youth Council will facilitate greater communication between the U.S. Embassy and Spanish youth and will give the Spanish youth a platform to suggest programs. Furthermore, the participants have the possibility to influence American policy, outreach, networking and project proposals and to participate in U.S. Embassy youth activities.

The Embassy Youth Council begins today, Friday, February 22, at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. The Deputy Chief of Missions, Luis Moreno, offers welcoming comments. Members also attend a roundtable discussion with U.S. diplomats on youth issues and a working lunch with Ambassador Alan Solomont, to discuss the launch of the Embassy Youth Council's mission statement and plan of action.

The inaugural members are also participating in a videoconference with Zeenat Rahman, the Special Advisor for Youth Affairs at the U.S. State Department. The Embassy Youth Council Spain is part of a network of over 50 youth councils launched by U.S. Embassies around the world, and is one of the first launched in Europe.

For more information visit:

<http://www.state.gov/j/gyi/>

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/elevating_youth_voices_through_youth_councils,

www.spanish.madrid.usembassy.gov