

Youth Ambassadors Program with the Caribbean

Adult Mentor Application

Application Deadline: February 19, 2016

Program Description: Students are invited to apply for participation in the **Youth Ambassadors Program with the Caribbean**. Through this program Caribbean youth, ages 15-18, will gain the knowledge and leadership skills to become more engaged in their communities, and get to know the United States and their home countries, as well as the members of their own group of ethnically, religiously, and nationally diverse participants.

Youth Ambassadors addresses three primary areas for the students: civic participation, appreciation of multi-ethnic diversity, and youth leadership. In addition, for the adult participants, it addresses adult leadership and mentoring. The sub theme of Youth and Social Transformation will be interwoven with the three main themes.

The goals of the program are to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the Caribbean; prepare youth leaders to become responsible citizens and contributing members of their communities; influence the attitudes of the leaders of a new generation; and foster relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups and create networks of hemispheric youth leaders, both within the participating countries and internationally.

The exchange will be intensive and highly interactive. Students and educators will participate in workshops, community service activities, team building exercises, meetings with community leaders, and leadership development exercises, and they will live with families in the United States. The exchange program dates are August 8-29, 2016. The follow on community projects will take place from September 2016 to June 2017.

While the exchange is three weeks in length, the program extends for a year. Upon their return home community, the students will apply what they have learned to implement projects that serve needs in their communities. Adult Mentors will continue to mentor the students with these projects, offering support, resources, and guidance. The sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

Youth Ambassadors is sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau, Youth Programs Division and the U.S. Embassy - Paramaribo, and is administered by World Learning. All travel, lodging, meals, and costs related to the program are paid for by the United States Government.

This Application is free of charge and may be duplicated.

Description of the Adult Mentor & Participant Role:

The Youth Ambassadors Program is designed for teenagers ages 15-18. Daily activities may be non-formal, non-traditional, experiential in nature, and designed specifically for youth to promote teambuilding, conflict resolution goals and cross-cultural understanding. The adult participants have many roles on the program.

These are listed according the level of importance and percentage:

- **80% Participant:** The adult participant is an active participant who attends and is engaged in all program activities and events, including social activities, unless specified as “optional.” An adult participant actively contributes to the group and to the learning process. Adult participants must remain with the program throughout the entire trip. Personal travel during the program is not permitted.
- **20% Group leader and adult mentor:**
 - A group leader is responsible for:
 - **Travel:** Managing students when traveling in airports.
 - **Discipline:** It is important to understand that there may be times where the World Learning program coordinator is not present for meetings because they may be preparing for other activities. In that case it is up to you, the adult, to serve as the group leader.
 - **Assisting World Learning Staff:** There are many instances in which the World Learning staff will ask for your assistance in helping with different sessions or activities, either as a participant or as a facilitator. There may also be times when we’ll need you to assist with evening transitions and room checks.
 - **Program Pace:** The pace of the program is “American-style”, which means it’s very busy and requires a lot of energy and a high level of attention. It is expected that meetings and sessions will start on time. Adult Mentors should be familiar with the schedule and program rules, and assist staff in reminding participants about upcoming workshops, field trips, and daily activities.
 - **Observing:** Paying attention to the mood, needs and dynamics of the group - notice those who are isolated, homesick, or having difficulty adjusting or has any language barriers. Safety is included in this category and is everyone’s responsibility on program. Adult Mentors will communicate consistently with staff throughout the program. For any safety or health related observations, Adult Mentors should communicate with staff immediately.
 - **An adult mentor is responsible for:**
 - Being a cultural bridge: It is important to understand and anticipate where there may be cultural differences and confusion. Adults Mentors should be willing and able to address issues within the group of students who come from different countries.
 - Role Model: Model respectful, positive, and cooperative interactions. Help to create positive energy and enthusiasm among participants. Support the development of a community among participants.

Who is eligible to apply?

Adults who may apply are those who:

- Are a citizen of Suriname (Dutch and dual U.S. citizens are not eligible).
- Be active in working with youth in either a high school or community setting;
- Be willing and able to meet periodically with selected students in their city/region, or virtually during the academic year 2016-2017 to support and monitor their follow-up work;
- Are committed to the goals and ideals of the program, including civic leadership, diversity, and fostering positive regional and global interactions and encouraging youth empowerment and involvement in social transformation.

**Preference will be given to Adults that have had minimal opportunity to travel to the United States or take part in similar programs.*

Adult applicants will be evaluated on the following factors:

- A demonstrated interest in and commitment to service in their local regions
- Strong record in teaching and/or youth programs; supporting youth activities
- Demonstrated leadership ability
- Ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups of students and peers and tolerate the opinions of others
- Commitment to working with youth after the project to help them implement projects

Instructions for completing this application: Please fill out the application as completely as possible. The information you provide on this application will provide the basis for selecting semi-finalists for this program. Answer the questions carefully and completely.

Applications should be submitted to: education-paramaribo@state.gov or to U.S. Embassy Paramaribo, Dr. Sophie Redmondstraat 129, Paramaribo, ATTN: Public Affairs Section.

Computerized or typed application forms are preferred.

Youth Ambassadors Program:
Adult Mentor Application

About you: Please print your name clearly exactly as it appears on your passport.

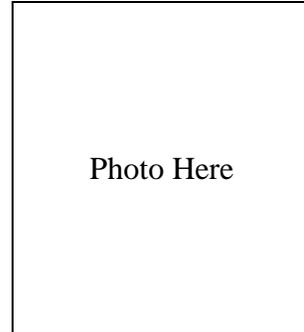
Last (Family) Name: _____

First Names: _____

Nickname: _____

Female

Male



Birthdate Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Address _____

City, Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

City & Country of Birth _____

Country of citizenship or permanent legal residence _____

About your education:

Highest Degree/Diploma earned _____ Date _____

School Name _____ Location _____

Do you speak any other languages besides English? Which ones?

About your employment:

Name of Employer/School _____ Date _____

Address _____

Principal/Supervisor's Name _____

Supervisor's Telephone _____

Your Job Title _____ How long at this job _____

Professional and Community Experience: Short Answer

What are your specific job responsibilities? If a teacher, what subjects do you teach?
Please describe the activities (extracurricular, community, hobbies, clubs) in which you are involved in outside of work.

Can you identify a specific issue or problem affecting your school, neighborhood, or community? What might you do to help resolve this problem?

How do you practically plan to support alumni after the program as they implement community projects, considering your existing responsibilities and time commitments?

3. Tell us about a time you acted in a leadership role. How did you approach this role? What specific actions did you take? Why?

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

More about you:

Do you have a valid passport? Yes No

If yes: Issuing Country _____

Passport Number _____ Expiration Date
(day/month/year) _____

Have you ever lived and/or studied in the United States or in another country? Yes No

If yes, where, when, and why? _____

Have you traveled to the United States or other countries? Yes No

If yes, where, when, and why? _____

Signature:

All information in this application is accurate and true.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Reference (1)

For the Applicant: Below, fill in your name and give this form to a supervisor or Access Program director. Ask the reference to fill out the form and return it to : education-paramaribo@state.gov or to U.S. Embassy Paramaribo, Dr. Sophie Redmondstraat 129, Paramaribo, ATTN: Public Affairs Section.

Applicant Name _____

For the Reference: The person named above is applying to take part in a the Youth Ambassadors Program a three week exchange program in the United States for students and adult mentors. The selected participants will be in a challenging cross cultural environment that will include living with a host family and an intensive curriculum. To succeed, the participants must be highly motivated, and be able to adjust to living and working with people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Adult Mentors have many roles on program including the role of chaperone, exchange participant, and post-exchange mentor. As such, selected applicants will have a strong commitment to youth empowerment, community civic engagement, and be open to new ideas and points of view.

If you would like to add additional comments, we encourage you to do so. Your answers will remain confidential.

Please indicate your opinion of this applicant's ability to meet the challenges of this program.

- I strongly recommend this applicant
- I recommend this applicant
- I have minor reservations about recommending this applicant
- I have major reservations about recommending this applicant
- I do not recommend this applicant

How long, and in what context, have you known this applicant?

What are the applicant's strengths?

Please describe the applicant's leadership ability and interpersonal skills.

How do you think the applicant would adapt to unfamiliar environments and new situations such as living with a host family from another culture and taking part in experiential learning activities?

How would you describe the applicant's interactions and relationship with youth in the community?

Additional Comments:

Name (printed) _____

Job Title _____

Address _____

E-mail and
Phone _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Reference (2)

For the Applicant: Below, fill in your name and give this form to a supervisor or Access Program director. Ask the reference to fill out the form and return it to: education-paramaribo@state.gov or to U.S. Embassy Paramaribo, Dr. Sophie Redmondstraat 129, Paramaribo, ATTN: Public Affairs Section.

Applicant Name _____

For the Reference: The person named above is applying to take part in the Youth Ambassadors Program a three week exchange program in the United States for students and adult mentors. The selected participants will be in a challenging cross cultural environment that will include living with a host family and an intensive curriculum. To succeed, the participants must be highly motivated, and be able to adjust to living and working with people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Adult Mentors have many roles on program including the role of chaperone, exchange participant, and post-exchange mentor. As such, selected applicants will have a strong commitment to youth empowerment, community civic engagement, and be open to new ideas and points of view.

If you would like to add additional comments, we encourage you to do so. Your answers will remain confidential.

Please indicate your opinion of this applicant's ability to meet the challenges of this program.

- I strongly recommend this applicant
- I recommend this applicant
- I have minor reservations about recommending this applicant
- I have major reservations about recommending this applicant
- I do not recommend this applicant

How long, and in what context, have you known this applicant?

What are the applicant's strengths?

Please describe the applicant's leadership ability and interpersonal skills.

How do you think the applicant would adapt to unfamiliar environments and new situations such as living with a host family from another culture and taking part in experiential learning activities?

How would you describe the applicant's interactions and relationship with youth in the community?

Additional Comments:

Name (printed) _____

Job Title _____

Address _____

E-mail and
Phone _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____