

Youth Ambassadors Program with the Caribbean

Student 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 United States families. 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, the students will apply what they have learned to implement projects that serve needs in their communities. 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.

Students who may apply are those who:

- Will be at least 15 years old and not more than 18 years old during the program.
- Are citizens of Suriname (those with Dutch or dual U.S. citizenship are not eligible).
- Attend a Public High School (not a tuition-based school) and have **at least** one semester remaining after August 2016.
- Demonstrate an interest in the U.S., other Caribbean nations, and the themes of Civic Engagement and Youth Social Transformation.
- Have permission from both parents and schools to participate in the entire program.
- Have traveled minimally outside their country of citizenship.

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:
Student Application

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

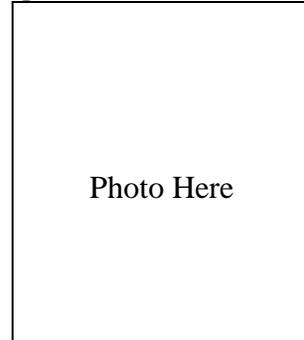
Last (Family) Name: _____

First Names: _____

Nickname: _____

Female

Male



Birth date Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Address _____

City, Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

City & Country of Birth _____

Country of citizenship or permanent legal residence _____

About your family:

Parent or guardian name(s) _____

Address (if different from yours) _____

Father Telephone _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Mother Telephone _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Brothers/ Sisters	Name	Gender	Age	Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

About your education:

School name _____

School address _____

City, Postal code _____

Current Grade _____ Year you will graduate _____

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

About your academic and community interests:

Academic subjects you are most interested in: _____

Please describe the activities (extracurricular, community, hobbies) in which you have participated, how long you have been involved with each, any awards or honors. Use the space provided.

Essay Questions- Long

4. Describe an experience working with a group of diverse people. What did you learn from that experience? How did you work together?

5. How are you a leader in your school or neighborhood? Identify two to three leadership qualities that you have and examples of how you use them.

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? _____

Signatures:

All information in this application is accurate and true

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

I permit my son/daughter to apply for and, if selected, to participate in this program

Parent or guardian signatures: _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Reference (1 of 2)

For the Applicant: Below, fill in your name and give this form to a teacher or other adult outside your family who knows you well. 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 student named above is applying to take part in a Youth Ambassadors Program, a three week exchange program in the United States followed by community project implementation at home. The selected students will be in a challenging academic environment and intensive leadership training. 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. We value your honest assessment of the applicant in helping us select the most appropriate participants. 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 student
- I recommend this student
- I have minor reservations about recommending this applicant
- I have major reservations about recommending this applicant
- I do not recommend this student

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

What are the applicant's strengths?

What are the academic or personal areas in which this applicant needs more development?

Please describe the applicant's behavior with respect to authority, peer relationships, and activities.

Do you think the applicant would adapt well to unfamiliar environments and new situations? Why or why not?

Additional Comments:

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Reference (2 of 2)

For the Applicant: Below, fill in your name and give this form to a teacher or other adult outside your family who knows you well. 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 student named above is applying to take part in a Youth Ambassadors Program, a three week exchange program in the United States followed by community project implementation at home. The selected students will be in a challenging academic environment and intensive leadership training. 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. We value your honest assessment of the applicant in helping us select the most appropriate participants. 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 student
- I recommend this student
- I have minor reservations about recommending this applicant
- I have major reservations about recommending this applicant
- I do not recommend this student

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

What are the applicant's strengths?

What are the academic or personal areas in which this applicant needs more development?

Please describe the applicant's behavior with respect to authority, peer relationships, and activities.

Do you think the applicant would adapt well to unfamiliar environments and new situations? Why or why not?

Additional Comments:

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____ Date _____