

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

American Councils is an international not-for-profit organization working to advance education, research, and mutual understanding across the world. We are committed to advancing understanding and cooperation through international educational exchange.

American Councils is a grantee organization of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is accredited by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET).



“I realized my responsibility as a youth ambassador of my country. I now understand the importance and impact I have on my host community in the U.S., as many of the people did not know much about my country.”



GET INVOLVED AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

ENRICH YOUR LIFE- HOST A STUDENT

Opening your home to a U.S. Department of State scholarship student is an opportunity to transform the world! Individuals and families of all kinds throughout the U.S. have something to share.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS- BECOME A LOCAL COORDINATOR

As a local coordinator with American Councils, you have the opportunity to share your talents with your community and engage others through cultural exchange. If you enjoy teenagers, learning about other languages and cultures, and being active in your community, this can be a wonderfully rewarding way to be involved in shaping the lives of young people and how they perceive their role in the world.



ATTN: Inbound Secondary School Programs

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share
teach
learn
host



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As a host family, we've seen the incredible potential of young people from all over the world. Our student frequently showed us how similar, rather than different, he is to us.

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INTERESTED IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE?

BECOME A HOST FAMILY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP EXCHANGE STUDENT!

If you would like to learn about other cultures from the comfort of your home and are willing to share your culture with the world, it's simple: become a host parent for a U.S. State Department scholarship exchange student! This is your chance to get involved in creating a broad global perspective for tomorrow's world leaders.

WHO CAN HOST?

Host families provide students with a loving and supportive environment, a bed to sleep in, meals and snacks, and a window into American life. All types of families in which English is the primary language are welcome, including those with teenagers or children at home, retirees, “empty nesters,” and single parents.

WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS?

These 15- to 17-year-old students are scholarship recipients who have participated in an open, highly competitive, merit-based selection process in order to earn the right to represent their countries. Students are selected based on their English language proficiency, academic performance, teacher recommendation, leadership qualities, maturity, and ability to adapt to a new cultural environment and life with a host family. Over 25,000 students have participated on these programs so far.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

U.S. Department of State Sponsored Programs:

Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX)

A model for other inbound scholarship programs, FLEX brings students to the U.S. from former countries of the Soviet Union since 1993.

Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)

YES was created in 2003 in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It offers students from countries with significant Muslim populations exposure to life in the United States, and works to foster increased understanding and mutual respect between the U.S. and these countries.

American-Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange (A-SMYLE)

A-SMYLE began in Spring 2006, and supports mutual understanding between our countries while promoting leadership and cultural exchange.

U.S. Embassy Initiated Program:

Exchanges for Culture, Education, and Leadership (ExCEL)

The ExCEL program seeks to enhance US/Lithuanian relations by promoting strong ties between a new generation of young Lithuanian and American leaders through scholarships that cover one year of academic study in the U.S. Established in 2010, ExCEL is an initiative of the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania.



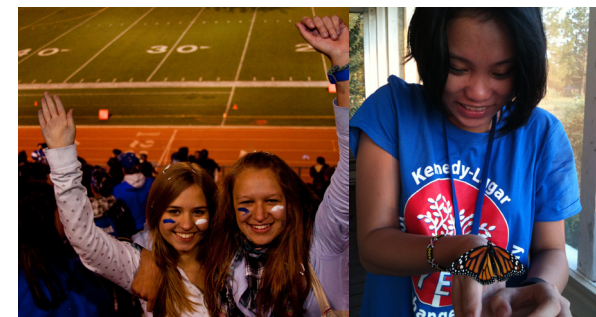
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I had a great host family and they have become a second family! They were my support and my best friends. I would not be who I am now without them in my life.

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ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

In their U.S. communities, students perform volunteer community service and make cultural presentations. They participate in activities that help to develop leadership skills, as well as their understanding of, and appreciation for, such concepts as volunteerism, diversity, and civic responsibility. All students and host families are supported by an American Councils coordinator in their area.



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

After completing their program, FLEX, YES, A-SMYLE and ExCEL participants become members of the State Department alumni group in their home countries. Alumni actively engage in their home communities and take part in follow-up projects funded through their exchange program. Alumni activities help students increase awareness in their home country about U.S. life and culture. Their projects are designed to foster the development of civil society in Southeastern Europe and Eurasia, and empower young people to change their countries' futures for the better.



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Volunteering taught me how important it actually is to do something, anything to help and make a difference in your community.

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