



YES Program Specific Information

YES Program Overview:

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program was established in October 2002. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, along with the U.S. exchange community, recognized the importance of youth exchange as a key component to building bridges between citizens of the United States and countries around the world, particularly those with significant Muslim populations.

The program officially launched in the Philippines in 2004 in hopes to expand communication between the people of the United States and in order to promote mutual understanding and respect. Since then over 545 Filipino students have completed the YES program and now participate as Alumni,

YES Program supports students with disabilities and encourages their participation. The U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works with a separate organization to provide students with disabilities with leadership-building workshops and appropriate information and support as needed to enhance their experience in the United States.

The goals of the program are to:

- Promote a better understanding among from selected YES countries about American society, people, institutions, values, and culture;
- Foster lasting personal ties;
- Engage the exchange participants in activities that promote mutual understanding, respect for diversity, leadership skills, and understanding of civil society during their exchange in the U.S.;
- Enhance Americans' understanding of foreign students' countries and cultures; and
- Increase the capacity of organizations in participating countries to engage youth in activities that enhance mutual understanding, respect for diversity, leadership skills, and understanding of civil society through alumni activities.

Requirements:

1. Duly accomplished Pre-Application Form.
2. Recent 2x2 ID sized photo with white background attached in the application form.
3. Signed Certification and Consent Form by a parent or legal guardian.
4. Photocopy of Authenticated PSA Birth Certificate.
5. Photocopy of most recent Form 137 or transcript of records from your Philippine high school.
6. Photocopy of valid government ID.

Important Note: Application form with incomplete information and requirements will lead to disqualification.



Eligibility:

1. Philippine citizen residing in the Philippines, at the same time of application, selection, and preparation for travel. Participants must have spent more than 50% of the last 5 years in the Philippines and have current family plans of returning to the Philippines after the program.
2. Must be born between **August 2, 2002** and **August 1, 2005**.
3. Be enrolled in 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade at the time of application; Have not completed more than 11 years of primary education nor received a high school diploma (senior high school) by the start of the program.
4. Be among the top 25% of academic performance in their grade level.
5. Have an equivalent of a B average or better without failing grades.
6. Strong academic and social skills, openness, and flexibility.
7. Demonstrated English language ability sufficient to study in a native English-medium setting.
8. Sufficiently healthy to participate in the program.
9. No previous significant travel to the U.S. on a U.S. government - sponsored program.
10. Committed to cultural immersion in the U.S. through a home-stay experience.
11. Able to meet cross-cultural challenges with maturity, humor, or an open mind.
12. Meet U.S. J-1 visa eligibility requirements (for instance, U.S. citizens are not eligible for J-1 visa).
13. Plans to share his/her experience with his/her home community upon return.

Important Note: Applicants who have family members (father, mother, sister or brother) and cousins within the first degree who have participated in the previous ECA-DOS sponsored programs and other AFS Philippines-administered sponsored programs are regrettably automatically disqualified to participate in this program. This restriction applies as well to AFS Philippines staff and board members up to the third degree.

PRE-APPLICATION FORM 2020 - 2021

Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES)

Funded/Sponsored by:



Please attach recent 2x2-size photo here

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Complete name as appears in PSA birth certificate/passport: (Last/First/Middle) | | Birthdate: (mm/dd/yy) | Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
| Complete home/mailling address: (House No. Street, Barangay, City/Municipality, Province) | | Region: | Zip Code: |
| Home phone with area code: | Mobile Phone/s: | Email Address: | |
| Name of Father/Legal Guardian (for minors): | | Name of Mother/Legal Guardian (for minors): | |
| Father's Job/Occupation: | | Mother's Job/Occupation: | |
| Name of Employer/Business (if owned): | | Name of Employer/Business (if owned): | |
| Work/Mobile Phone: | Email Address: | Work/Mobile Phone: | Email Address: |
| Passport No.: | Passport Issue Date: | Passport Expiry Date: | Country issuing passport: PHILIPPINES |
| Religion: <input type="checkbox"/> Christianity <input type="checkbox"/> Islam <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | Ethnic Background (if applicable): | Foods I cannot eat: | Native/Foreign Languages Spoken: |
| Family/Relative who has participated in an YES Program or other AFS Exchange Programs: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have a relative who has participated in YES Program or AFS Exchange Programs. <input type="checkbox"/> No, I don't have a relative who has participated in YES Program or AFS Exchange Programs. | | | |
| If yes, Name of Relative/s: | Relationship: | Program Name and Destination: | Date (Month/Year) of Departure: |
| YES Program: I learned about YES through: <input type="checkbox"/> YES Alumni <input type="checkbox"/> AFS Returnee/Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/Relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Print (newspaper/brochure/poster) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |

II. SCHOOL INFORMATION

| | | | |
|--|-------|--|----------------|
| Complete school name (no abbreviations): | | Type of School: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Dormitory <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education | |
| Complete school mailing address: (House No., Barangay, City/Municipality, Province): | | Region: | Zip Code: |
| Complete name of school principal/administrator: | | | |
| Telephone: | Fax : | Mobile Phone: | Email Address: |
| 2018 – 2019: Year Level in Academic: | | 2016 – 2017: Average Grade in Academic: | |
| | | 2017 – 2018: Average Grade in Academic: | |
| 2019 – 2020: Year Level in Academic: | | 2018 – 2019: Average Grade in Academic: | |

I hereby certify that the above information on the student's application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement may disqualify the student for benefits.

Signature over printed name of school administrative

Selection Process

AFS Philippines will only notify those who are shortlisted and invited for Regional Selection and Interview Camp by the last week of July until first week of August.

The YES Program covers the following for the selected finalists:

- U.S. J-1 Visa
- International travel ticket between home country and the U.S., including only one checked-in luggage.
- Domestic Travels during the following:
 - U.S. In-person Visa Interview and English Enhancement Workshop, from and to your hometown.
 - Immediate Pre-departure Orientation, from and your hometown.
 - Immediate Re-entry/Return Orientation, from and to your host community in the U.S.
 - End of stay/Program Orientation, from and to your host community in the U.S.
- Placement in a host family and U.S. High School.
- Orientations in home country and in the U.S. (English Enhance Workshop, Pre-departure Orientation, Arrival Orientation, Mid-Stay Orientation, End of Stay/Program Orientation and Re-entry/Return Orientation).
- Program Enrichment Activities
- Medical Insurance
- Monthly Stipend

Important Note: Any kind of pre-existing conditions will not be covered by the provided Medical Insurance.

List of documents and requirement that not covered by the YES program and has to prepared by the program candidates:

- Passport
- DSWD Travel Clearance for Minor
- Medical Examinations, including but not limited to TB Skin Test (see list of accepted TB skin testing).
- Immunization and vaccinations that are mandatory (see list of vaccinations required by the program).
- Pre-existing medical conditions and allergies, dental care, and eye care.
- Excess or overweight baggage cost.
- Personal expenses and trips during program.

Important note: AFS Philippines will only notify those selected candidates in due course.

Essay Part I

Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)
Note: No cursive allowed.

Program:

YES Program 20__ to 20__

**What specific characteristics does a Youth Ambassador need to be successful
and how you demonstrated those characteristics?**
(300 words max)

Essay Part II

Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)
Note: No cursive allowed.

Program:

YES Program 20__ to 20__

Describe how participation in the YES Scholarship Program would help you achieve your personal, academic, or professional goals. (300 words max)

Essay Part III

Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)
Note: No cursive allowed.

Program:

YES Program 20__ to 20__

What makes you uniquely suited to this program? (300 words max)

Essay Part IV

Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)
Note: No cursive allowed.

Program:

YES Program 20__ to 20__

How would you describe “Intercultural Learning” and what is its role in connecting communities? (300 words max)

Essay Part V

Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)
Note: No cursive allowed.

Program:

YES Program 20__ to 20__

Describe how and why you have been involved in community activities or volunteer experiences and what you learned from the experiences. (300 words max)

CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT

I hereby certify that above information on my application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and ability. I understand that any false information may cause my disqualification from the program. And any incomplete information will lead to disqualification.

If selected as grantee, I commit to participate actively in all activities before, during and after the YES Program.

Signature over printed name of applicant

Date

Parent's/Guardian's consent for the applicant to participate in the program.

Signature over printed name of father/guardian

Date

Signature over printed name of mother/guardian

Date

SUBMISSION POLICY

1. All applications must be received by AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines **NO LATER** than 4:00 PM on July 12, 2019.
2. Applications can be submitted to AFS Philippines as printed or scanned copies.
3. If submitting an application via soft/scanned copies, all pages and requirements must be scanned clearly with 100 dpi resolution, in PDF format and sent to phi.YESprogram@afs.org with the email subject: YES 2020-2021 / Application_Surname_First Name (Example: YES 2020 - 2021 Application_Ali_Fatima)
4. And if submitting as printed copies, direct it to **AFS PHILIPPINES PROGRAMS** at the complete address below:

AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines
Unit 1607, 16F Antel Global Corporate Center
No.3 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center
1600, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines

TeleFax: (02)584-2002
Email Address: phi.YESprogram@afs.org

OR printed applications can be submitted to the following authorized drop off points location listed [here](#).

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Pre-application is provided free of any charges and can be photocopied.
2. AFS/U.S. Embassy in the Philippines Staff and YES Alumni do not collect any fees from YES applicants or schools.
3. U.S. Host School do not provide an official Transcript of Grade nor a Diploma.
4. U.S. Grade Accreditation will be the participant's school (Philippine School) discretion; All concerns regarding grade placement/accreditation in the Philippines is not covered by the YES Program. Thus, participants are highly encouraged to communicate this kind of concern to their school in the Philippines.