



## **Youth Leadership Program: RUSSIA**

### **Student Application**

**Program Description:** The Youth Leadership Program with Russia is a three-week exchange from August 6-August 27 in the United States for high school students and adult mentors. The primary program themes are civic education, community service, and youth leadership development. Participants live with host families for the majority of the exchange and engage in leadership and civic education workshops, community service activities, visits to local schools and community organizations, project planning and development, and local cultural activities with American peers. Participants return home with action plans to bring their exchange experience to their home communities in the form of a wide range of community service projects.

#### **Student applicants must:**

- ✓ Be a citizen and live in Russia (applicants with dual U.S. citizenship will not be considered);
- ✓ Be either age 15 or 16 years old by August 6;
- ✓ Have proficiency in English; Access 2 level or better;
- ✓ Must be currently enrolled in high school;
- ✓ Demonstrate good academic performance, leadership potential, an interest in and commitment to community service and volunteer activities;
- ✓ Demonstrate initiative, good communication, and an energetic, positive attitude;
- ✓ Have the ability to work cooperatively in a team and tolerate the opinions of others;
- ✓ Have permission from a parent or legal guardian to participate in the program.
- ✓ Candidates who have previously participated in a USG-funded exchange program (FLEX, Ben Franklin Summer Institutes, Between the Lines) are not eligible to apply.

- ✓ **There is no application fee.** The United States Government will pay for all costs to participate in the program, including international travel to and from the United States, orientations, visa fees, and the exchange activities in the United States, including meals and lodging.

**Application Deadline:** May 22, 2015

**Applications should be submitted to:**

[Leadershipexchange2015@gmail.com](mailto:Leadershipexchange2015@gmail.com)

Please use the following subject line: (Last Name, First Name, City Name)

Example: **Ivanov, Peter, St. Petersburg**

Each attachment should be labeled according to the following format:

(Last name, First Name, description of document):

Example: **Ivanov, Peter, application**

**Ivanov, Peter, teacher recommendation**

**Questions should be addressed to:**

[Leadershipexchange2015@gmail.com](mailto:Leadershipexchange2015@gmail.com)

**Instructions for completing this application:** Please fill out the application and answer all questions carefully and completely, in English. The information you provide on this application will provide the basis for selecting participants for this program.

Semi-finalists will be contacted for an in-person or telephone interview.

## **Youth Leadership Program: Russia**

### ***Student Application***

#### **Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last (Family) First Middle  
Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (Month/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
City and Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of citizenship or permanent legal residence \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

#### **Parent/Guardian Information**

**\*\*Your parent or guardian must sign the application at the end\*\***

##### **Parent/Guardian 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to you \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if different from yours) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Parent/Guardian 2**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to you \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if different from yours) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Passport Information**

Do you have a valid international passport? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
If yes, please attached a copy of your passport  
Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
Issuing Country \_\_\_\_\_

### Travel Information

Have you ever traveled to the United States or another country?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No

If yes, please provide a brief description of dates, length and nature of your stay(s):

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### Education and Activities

School name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade \_\_\_\_\_ Year you will graduate \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you studied English? \_\_\_\_\_

List other languages you have studied below.

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years studied \_\_\_\_\_

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years studied \_\_\_\_\_

Academic subjects you are most interested in \_\_\_\_\_

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Future studies and/or possible occupations you've considered \_\_\_\_\_

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Please list all extracurricular activities you currently take part in (school clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, community service activities, leisure time activities), how long you have been involved with each, any awards or honors. Use additional space as needed.

**SHORT ESSAYS:** Please respond to 3 out of the following 4 short essay questions in one paragraph, each. (word limit for each paragraph response is 150 words)

Why do you want to participate in this program?

Do you have an idea for a project that would improve your community?

In what ways are you an effective leader? Using two examples, describe how you are a leader in your school, community, or home.

During this exchange, participants will act as ambassadors for their countries. What qualities do you have that would help you fulfill this role?

## Participant Agreement/Parental Consent

I agree that all of the information in this application is true and I agree that if chosen to participate, I will participate in ALL program activities in the United States and Russia, including the pre-departure orientation and follow-on activities. I also understand that I must remain with the program throughout the entire exchange and that personal travel within the United States during the program is not permitted.

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Applicant Signature

Date

I permit my child to apply for and, if selected, to participate in this program.

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Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

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Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: Russia**

### **Reference**

**Applicant Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Applicant:** Please submit one reference with your application. The forms should be from a teacher or other adult outside your family who knows you well. The form must be in English. You may submit this form as a scanned, electronic copy with your application.

**For the Reference:** The student named above is applying to take part in the Youth Leadership Program, a three-week exchange program in the United States for students and teachers. 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 or capacity, have you known this applicant?

What are the applicant's strengths?

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

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

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

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_