



Youth Ambassadors Program with South America



Student Application Information

Who is eligible to apply?

Students must...

- be at least 15 years old and not more than 18 years old at the time of the exchange (summer 2015)
- have at least one more semester of high school following the program (a graduation year of 2016 or later)
- have permission from either a parent or legal guardian to participate in the three-week program to Bolivia and Peru
- hold US Citizenship

What is the criteria for selection?

- a demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and civic activities
- ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and tolerate the opinions of others
- leadership potential
- good social and communication skills
- an energetic, positive attitude
- commitment to implementing community project following exchange.

Selection Process:

- Applicants that make it past the initial application review by our panel will be contacted for an interview in March 2015
- Due to the large quantity of applications received, it is not possible to inform all applicants of their status. Thus, applicants can assume they were not chosen if they have not been contacted by Amizade by March 1st
- Additional questions should be emailed to YAPSA@amizade.org.

Application Instructions

Please fill out the application as completely as possible. The information you provide on this application will provide the basis for selecting participants for this program. Answer the questions carefully and completely.

Application deadline for all materials is February 23rd, 2015.

Once you begin the online application you will not be allowed to save it or return to it. We strongly recommend that you gather all necessary information and compose your essays before you begin the online application. The essay questions are listed below. *Please only submit your application via the online form!*

Please note the additional required documents that must be submitted with your application below.

Essay Questions

There is no word limit on these essays, we suggest each short essay be about 1-2 paragraphs and each long essay should be about 1 page.

- **Short Essay Question #1:** Why do you want to participate in this program? What will you contribute to the group and to the experience of you are chosen?
- **Short Essay Question #2:** What do you hope to learn during this program?
- **Long Essay Question #1:** Identify a specific environmental or social issue affecting your neighborhood or community. What might you do to resolve this issue?
- **Long Essay Question #2:** What makes a good leader? Using two examples, describe how you have shown leadership in your school, community, or home.
- **Long Essay Question #3:** Please write a letter introducing yourself to your potential host family.

Required Documents

1. **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher or other adult outside your family who knows you well. Ask the person to serve as a reference for you, complete the form, and return to Amizade via email (YAPSA@amizade.org) or mail (305 34th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201) by *February 23rd, 2015*.
2. **Parent/ Guardian Consent Agreement** returned to Amizade via email (YAPSA@amizade.org) or mail (305 34th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201) by *February 23rd, 2015*.

3. **Photo of Yourself.** Please send a recent photos of yourself to Amizade via email (YAPSA@amizade.org) or mail (305 34th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201) by *February 23rd, 2015.*

Application Deadline: February 23, 2015

Apply online at **amizade.org/yapsa/**

For more information, email YAPSA@amizade.org or call 412-586-4986