



Participant Agreement – Terms and Conditions

Purpose: The Serbia Youth Leadership Program (SYLP) is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with World Link, Inc, Ashoka's Youth Venture and NGO Fractal and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. SYLP supports the development of community activism, leadership skills, respect for diversity, and civic education in youth from Serbia and the United States. This short-term cultural and educational exchange between high school students and teachers/community leaders from Serbia and the U.S. will teach participants valuable skills of social entrepreneurship such as identifying and diagnosing community problems, using new technologies to communicate effectively, and teamwork and consensus building.

Structure: In the U.S. and overseas, the SYLP program is administered by American Councils in cooperation with World Link, Ashoka's Youth Venture and NGO Fractal. World Link arranges accommodations in a host family and a host family orientation programs in the United States. Ashoka's Youth Venture will provide programming in Washington, DC. Fractal will provide training in Serbia. Through unaffiliated service providers, American Councils arranges round-trip international transportation and medical care as well as special transport should emergency situations arise. The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Youth Programs Division provides funding to American Councils to administer the Serbia Youth Leadership Program.

The following Terms and Conditions identify the framework under which the Serbian Youth Leadership program operates with the cooperation of participants and their parents.

We the undersigned participants and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree to abide by the following Terms and Conditions of Participation:

General Program Policies

1. We agree with the statement of purpose of the SYLP program and have given our son or daughter permission to participate in this program. We and our son or daughter will obey the policies described in the program materials and guidelines.
2. We affirm that our son or daughter is a citizen of Serbia.
3. We understand that our son or daughter must meet the program eligibility requirements and to the best of our knowledge, there is no reason why our son or daughter cannot receive a U.S. visa.
4. We will not visit our son or daughter during his or her participation in the SYLP program without obtaining written approval from the host family and American Councils. We understand that all requirements for travel and visas will be our responsibility, should we be approved to and decide to travel. Visits from natural family are strongly discouraged during the program. Such visits interrupt the continuity of the relationship with the host family and may diminish the exchange experience for the participant and host family.
5. We understand that visits with relatives and home country friends are not permitted during the program.
6. We understand that if our son or daughter is selected to receive a scholarship, final acceptance will depend on fulfillment of the medical and placement requirements of the program organization.
7. Our son or daughter agrees to participate fully in all program activities, including orientations before the program and follow-on activities after the program.
8. We agree to release and discharge American Councils, its employees, host families, program representatives, as well as the Department of State from any legal liability, claim or demand in connection with: a) any emergency, accident, illness, injury, or other consequences or event arising from the actions or participation of our son or daughter in the program; b) any cause, event, or occurrence beyond the control of American Councils, including but not limited to natural disasters, war, civil disturbances, and the negligence of parties not subject to the control of the program organizations.
9. If the participant is absent from the hotel, host family, or other places to which American Councils has assigned him or her without obtaining the approval from American Councils. American Councils in conjunction with ECA's Youth Programs Division may determine that the participant has left the program through his or her voluntary action. In this case, American Councils is absolved from all obligations legal or otherwise to the participant and his or her parents or guardians for the participant's current or future well-being. American Councils will, if circumstances warrant, work with the participant to return to the SYLP Program.

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Travel Policies

1. We agree that our son or daughter will travel to and from the U.S. in strict accordance with the travel plans made by American Councils
2. We will not encourage or permit our son or daughter to travel outside the host community during his or her participation in the program. It is the policy of the SYLP Program that only authorized participant travel is permitted. Authorized participant travel must generally meet these three criteria: a) the participant's safety is assured to the greatest extent possible; b) American Councils is informed of the participant's location at all times; c) the travel does not interfere with program activities. SYLP participants must obtain permission for travel from American Councils whether the participant is accompanied or not accompanied by his or her host parent(s) or a responsible adult. American Councils determines authorization for travel. If the participant will be traveling unaccompanied, the program organization and American Councils in Washington, DC must be advised.
3. Visits by participants to Serbia while on the SYLP program are not allowed except in the case of the death or imminent death of an immediate family member. An unauthorized visit will result in dismissal from the program. Such trips break the continuity of the relationship with the host family and interrupt the continuity of program training activities. Any requests for such visits must be approved by the program organization and the U.S. Department of State.
4. We understand that our son or daughter will be responsible for paying any fees incurred for carrying baggage in excess of the baggage limits set by the airlines used for SYLP program travel. We understand that this provision applies to both international travel and domestic travel and may change during the course of the program.
5. We understand that in making travel arrangements for our son or daughter, American Councils contracts with or uses commercial airlines, trains, buses, restaurants, hotels, and other entities whose performance and services cannot be controlled by American Councils. Consequently, we agree that American Councils is not liable for any of the actions or negligence of such commercial entities including, but not limited to, lost baggage, uncomfortable accommodations, and travel delays. We further understand that American Councils reserves the right to change or alter travel, lodging or other arrangements if they believe such a change to be in the best interest of the participants or the program.
6. We understand that our son or daughter must return home at the end of the program on the date assigned by the responsible American Councils staff member. Changes to the assigned departure date will not be made to accommodate special events that occur after the assigned date. We understand that the visa issued to our son or daughter may not be amended or extended beyond the program end date.

Host Family Placement

1. We understand that American Councils will share information about our son or daughter with World Link for the purpose of host family placement.
2. We authorize American Councils and program organizations, employees, and representatives to change the place or residence designated for our son or daughter when they believe such a change to be in the best interest of our son or daughter. We understand that we will be notified of any such change.
3. We are aware that there is no overseas living experience that is typical. We understand that placements are made on the basis of criteria designed to determine suitability of host families and that neither American Councils nor the program organizations nor the affiliated organizations nor the U.S. Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau Youth Programs Division discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or ethnic origin either of participants or of host families.
4. We understand that there are laws or rules restricting smoking in some cities, states, and host families. We agree to honor these restrictions.
5. We understand that we may have to sign a waiver or release document to give permission and authorization for our son or daughter to take part in some activities. Our son or daughter may take part in activities which are not available in our country and by signing this Agreement, we consent to such activities.
6. All SYLP program participants must attend all activities as part of their program. Non-attendance in program activities may result in dismissal from the program or a determination that the participant has left the SYLP program.

Health/Medical Issues

1. We confirm that the medical form information we have provided is accurate and contains no material omissions of which we are aware. We will immediately inform American Councils of any changes in information given. We understand that such new information may require reconsideration of our son's or daughter's status in the program. In the event that our son/daughter has a recurrence of any previous illness or anything contracted before leaving home or in the U.S. that is not covered by insurance, we authorize American Councils to return our child to our care in our country. We will not hold American Councils, responsible for any debts incurred in connection with this permission. We understand that treatment will be provided for injuries sustained by our son or daughter while on program but the extent of coverage is subject to the insurance provider's rules and policies.
2. We confirm that we have provided a full and complete medical history on our son/daughter.
3. As the applicant's parents or guardians, we agree to and do hereby authorize American Councils and program organizations, their personnel and representatives and the adult members of the host family to act for us in any emergency, accident, or illness. SYLP program organizations, their representatives and host families are not responsible for any medical bills not

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covered by insurance, incurred by a participant regardless of who signs a medical form. Neither American Councils nor the program organizations nor the affiliated organizations nor the Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs Youth Programs Division bear any responsibility for any negative results because of a medical treatment.

Dismissal from the SYLP Program

1. We understand that our son or daughter may be dismissed from his/her SYLP program for behavior that American Councils or program organizations, at their discretion, consider detrimental to our son or daughter or to the SYLP program.
2. When a participant admits to violating a local law, is arrested, or is charged, the participant may be dismissed from the SYLP program and is subject to local prosecution. Natural families are responsible for legal fees and costs in the event of legal proceedings against their son or daughter.
3. We agree that if we violate any provision of this Agreement or if our son or daughter during his or her stay overseas: a) engages in any unauthorized travel; b) is absent without authorization from program or the place of residence designated by the American Councils or program organization; or c) violates any provision of this agreement; it may be determined that our son or daughter has voluntarily withdrawn from the SYLP program. In this case, the American Councils and program organizations are absolved from all obligations, legal or otherwise, to the participant and his or her parents or guardians for the participant's current or future well-being. At this point, the program has no responsibility to provide supervision, housing, meals, or other support. American Councils and program organizations will, if the circumstances warrant, work with the participant to return to the SYLP program. However, if this cannot be accomplished, a decision will be made concerning the separation from the SYLP program.
4. If our son or daughter voluntarily withdraws or is dismissed from the SYLP program at any time after departure from the Serbia we understand that his/her scholarship, visa, and health insurance coverage are canceled. We understand that our son or daughter will be returned to the Serbia on a schedule determined by American Councils.

Privacy

1. We understand and accept that American Councils may process the personal information that we have provided here, in the application process and during program participation, and may transmit such data to third parties, including program organizations and the U.S. Department of State, for any purpose reasonably required for the proper organization and fulfillment of the SYLP program. We understand that the data will not be sold or otherwise transferred to third parties for any purpose other than SYLP program administration.

Code of Conduct

The policies presented here are the general policies for participants.

- 1) **Alcohol and Illegal Drugs:** Purchase, possession, and use by SYLP participants of illegal drugs and alcohol, including beer, is strictly forbidden.
- 2) **Cigarettes:** The purchase and possession of cigarettes and other tobacco products by minors is illegal in California, Minnesota, and Washington. SYLP participants agree to abide by these laws.
- 3) **Behavior.** Participants on in the SYLP program must understand that they are representatives in a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and should behave themselves in an appropriate and respectful way. Participants should not engage in conduct that will bring disrepute to the U.S. Department of State, the SYLP program, program organizations, or affiliated organizations and host families.
- 4) **Computers.** Participants who break host family rules or local laws regarding use of a computer, even if the computer is the property of the participant, or who place the host family's personal information anywhere on the Internet may face criminal charges and may be dismissed from the SYLP program. Participants who in any way put the safety of themselves or others at risk by misusing the Internet may be dismissed from the SYLP program.
- 5) **Dangerous/risky activities.** The following activities are strictly forbidden: driving any motorized vehicle (such as a car, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, etc.), hang gliding, bungee jumping, hitchhiking, parachute jumping, piloting a private plane, mountain biking, rock climbing, skateboarding, extreme sports, and any other such activities prohibited by your SYLP program organization.
- 6) **Driving.** SYLP participants are not permitted to drive cars or motorcycles under any circumstances. Violators of this policy will be considered for program dismissal, even if the participant possesses an international driver's license or if the host or natural family feels that the participant is a responsible and careful driver.
- 7) **Employment.** SYLP participants are not allowed to work during the program.
- 8) **SYLP Scholarship covers:**
 - U.S. visa, including travel to U.S. Consulate
 - Shipment of applications to Washington, DC for selection
 - Program orientation activities, including pre-departure preparation

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- Round-trip domestic and international travel between home town and the host town in the United States as well as travel to Washington, DC
- Placement with a selected volunteer U.S. host family
- Program activities arranged in local U.S. communities and Washington, DC
- Medical insurance, excluding pre-existing conditions, treatment for chronic or recurring illness, and dental care

9) SYLP Scholarship does not cover:

- Costs associated with obtaining a valid Serbian passport or necessary exit documents
- Required medical examinations and immunizations
- Travel with U.S. host family and/or U.S. friends
- Personal items such as toiletries, school supplies, meals shared with friends, unplanned activities, school or other field trips, over and above the monthly allowance
- Telephone calls and emails to your host family or natural family
- Excess baggage costs

Declaration by Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s)

1. We have discussed the goals of the SYLP program and this Agreement with our son or daughter, and each of us fully understands the obligations.
2. We confirm that all information provided in this application is truthful.
3. We understand that any misrepresentation or false answer in this application can be grounds for our son or daughter's dismissal from the program.
4. We confirm that we have the authority to give approval for this applicant.

Signature(s) of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s):

X _____ X _____

Print: _____ Print: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Participant Agreement

I have read this Agreement and discussed it with my parent(s) or guardian(s), its terms, and conditions. I agree with the purpose of the SYLP program and fully accept all terms and conditions of this Agreement, and all other rules, regulations, and conditions set forth concerning the program. In particular, I will do my best to become an integral part of my host family, and community; will travel only in accordance with the Travel Policies above; and will attend all program activities designated for me on a regular basis and complete all work to the best of my ability.

I hereby certify that the information provided in all parts of this application is truthful. I understand that any misrepresentation of false answer can be grounds for my dismissal from the SYLP program.

Signature of Applicant:

X _____ Date: _____

Print: _____