



Serbia Youth Leadership Program

THE SERBIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
IS A PROGRAM OF THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (ECA)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ADMINISTERED
BY AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION,
YOUTH VENTURES, AND FRACTAL



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A C T R ▲ A C C E L S

Program Description:

The Serbia Youth Leadership Program (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 Serbian and American high school students and teachers/community leaders 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.

Up to 56 Serbian students aged 15-17 and four teachers/community leaders will travel to the United States to participate in a four-week program that enables them to gain skills that will help them to launch a successful Youth Venture—a community-based project—once returning to Serbia. Participants will take part in a week-long orientation in Washington, D.C. that prepares them for their two and a half week program in a U.S. community. Students will be divided into three groups and accompanied by one or two youth leaders from Serbia. Each group will travel to a U.S. community, to live with American host families, and to actively participate in a program that focuses on a specific theme. Each city has a different theme;

- participants in Minneapolis, Minnesota will focus on student activism and expanding educational opportunities;
- participants in San Francisco, California will examine the immigrant experience in the United States to focus on equality issues and ethnic tolerance in a multi-ethnic, pluralistic society;
- participants in Seattle, Washington will focus on grassroots activism from the local to the global levels.

SYLP participants will return to Washington, D.C. to participate in an end-of-program conference where experiences from the three host communities will be shared and evaluated for possible Youth Venture initiatives in Serbia. After returning to Serbia, all participants will take part in a Community Panel—made up of potential funders, non-governmental organizations, representatives from partner organizations, and U.S. Youth Venturers—where they will present plans for their venture. The panel will offer suggestions and give guidance designed to make the ventures as successful as possible. During July 2010, 15 U.S. participants from the U.S. host communities will travel to Serbia for a two-week exchange program. SYLP finalists from Serbia will be eligible to apply to host their U.S. counterparts. All SYLP participants will have the opportunity to interact with the U.S. participants during their exchange in Serbia.

The Serbia Youth Leadership Program will enable participants to:

- develop their sense of civic responsibility and commitment to community development;
- become part of a group of community activists who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers through positive action and collaboration;
- foster understanding and build relationships with youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups;
- promote mutual understanding between the people of Serbia and the United States.



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SYLP Program Calendar

Pre-departure Orientation in Serbia	March 2010
Washington, D.C. Program	April 2010
U.S. Program (Minneapolis, Seattle, San Francisco)	April 2010-May2010
End of Program Conference in Washington, D.C.	May 2010
Community Panels (Presentations of Venture Projects)	July2010
U.S. Participants travel to Serbia	July 2010

Eligibility Requirements

To apply for the program, students must certify that they meet the eligibility requirements outlined below.

I certify that (Check all that apply):

Eligibility Requirements – Serbia Youth Leadership Program:

- I am proficient in English
- I am currently enrolled in grade I, II, or III
- I will be 15, 16, or 17 years of age as of April 1, 2010
- I am a citizen of Serbia
- I am eligible to receive a U.S. visa
- I demonstrate leadership potential
- I have a desire to contribute to my community
- I am able to travel to the United States in April 2010
- I commit to participate in follow-on activities including the U.S. participants' visit in July 2010.

How to Apply to the Serbia Youth Leadership Program

Applicants must:

- Complete the application form and essay questions on-line.
- Upload a copy of your passport. If you do not have a passport, you can attach a copy of your birth certificate.
- Upload a visa photo.

-OR-

- If you are unable to complete the application and essay questions on line you may obtain a copy of the application from the American Councils office in Belgrade or download a copy from the American Councils website. You may submit a completed application and a copy of your passport (or birth certificate) and visa photo to the American Councils office in Belgrade, Serbia by the deadline.

Applicants must provide all parts of the application, passport copy or birth certificate AND visa photos. If the application is not complete the applicant will not be considered for the program. Semi-finalists will be notified of their status after October 26, 2009 and will be invited for an interview and further testing in October or November 2009.

Where and When to Submit Your Application

Applications must be submitted online or to the American Councils office in Belgrade by **September 30, 2009**.

URL to submit application: Please visit <http://americancouncilssee.org> for the URL

American Councils, Belgrade

Address:

Kraljice Natalije 68
I floor, Apt. 8
11000 Belgrade
Serbia

Phone:

+ 381 11 2657 354
+ 381 11 2657 362

Fax:

+ 381 11 2646 025

Email:

Belgrade@americancouncilssee.org

Website

<http://americancouncilssee.org>



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Biographical Data Student Information

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

Gender: Male _____
Female _____ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

City of birth: _____ Country of birth: _____

Citizenship: _____ Email Address: _____

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Postal Index: _____ City _____ Country: _____

Home telephone: Code _____ Number: _____

Mobile phone Code _____ Number: _____

Mother:

Current Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Index: _____ City _____ Country: _____

Home phone: Code _____ Number: _____

Mobile phone: Code _____ Number: _____

Work phone: Code _____ Number: _____

Father:

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Index: _____ City _____ Country: _____

Home phone: Code _____ Number: _____

Mobile phone: Code _____ Number: _____

Work phone: Code _____ Number: _____

School Information

Class (choose one): I II III

School Name _____ Telephone Number: City Code _____ Number _____

Address: _____ Name of school director: _____



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Knowledge of Languages:

List your native language first, then rate yourself Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor in all languages in which you have some competence.

Language	Reading ability	Writing ability	Speaking Ability	Listening Ability
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Volunteer or community service activities

List any volunteer or community service activities in which you have participated during the past three years:

List any youth groups and non-governmental organizations that you belong to:

What type of volunteer or community service activities would you like to participate in to improve your local community? Why are you interested in this kind of activity? Are there any particular social issues that you would like to explore? Why?



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Essay Questions

Student Name

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

You must answer both questions in English. Each answer should be no more than 500 words. They can be shorter if you like, but we suggest a minimum of 100 words per essay. We recommend that you write the answers to these questions yourself rather than ask for help from your teachers or parents.

1. What 3 qualities do you think a good leader should possess? Which of these qualities do you possess? Give examples of how you have demonstrated these qualities.

2. Describe a problem you have faced in the past 2-3 years. What did you do? How did you resolve the problem? Why?

Essay 1



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Essay Questions

Student Name

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Essay 2