

Partner Organizations

American Civics Center

The American Civics Center (ACC) is an innovative, nonpartisan force in citizenship education dedicated to providing quality, affordable, and accessible programs that encourage participants to learn about history, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. ACC conducts the Civic Education Workshop in Washington, DC.

European Academy of Diplomacy

The European Academy of Diplomacy (EAD) in Warsaw offers professional training for young graduates, civil servants and representatives of academia and business, necessary to form leaders for a globalized and changing world. Through a wide range of competence and linguistics trainings, as well as study tours, the European Academy of Diplomacy provides its students with the skills needed to work in the international environment, whether in diplomacy, business or in the non-for-profit sector.

Kosciuszko Foundation

Founded in 1925, Kosciuszko Foundation (KF) is dedicated to promoting and strengthening understanding and friendship between the peoples of Poland and the U.S. KF provides support in organizing the Civic Education workshop and summer camp in Poland.

World Link

Based in Kalona, Iowa, World Link has 14 years of experience in operating international exchange programs. World Link oversees placement and support of the Polish students in the U.S., welcome orientation, and coordination of their internships. World Link also recruits the U.S. participants.



Administered by:

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ACTR ▲ ACCELS

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, an international not-for-profit organization, believes in the fundamental role of education in fostering positive change for individuals, institutions and societies. Building upon over three decades of regional expertise and development experience, American Councils advances education and research worldwide through international programs that provide the global perspective essential for academic and professional excellence. In collaboration with partners around the world, our dedicated team of professionals designs and implements innovative and effective programs responsive to the cultures and needs of the international communities in which we work.

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U.S.-POLAND YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM-2012

A YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF STATE, BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



“Student exchange programs do more than benefit individual scholars and advance human knowledge. Such programs expand ties between nations, improve international commerce, encourage cooperative solutions to global problems, prevent war, and give participants a chance to develop a sense of global service and responsibility”.

- Senator Richard Lugar, U.S. sponsor of
legislation enacting the U.S.-Poland
Exchange Program





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S.-Poland Youth Leadership Program was designed to give its participants a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to international understanding and cooperation among youth, and to develop young leaders who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers. Program partners conduct two separate four-week exchange programs, focusing on civic education and leadership for 15 secondary school students and three educators each from Poland and the U.S. This reciprocal exchange focuses on three sites in each country, thus expanding the impact of the program beyond the direct participants and into six communities.

Program Components

Program features for all participants include:

- civic education workshops in both the U.S. and Poland
- host family stays
- high school exchange experience
- presentations to classes and civic groups in host communities
- a community service programming
- internships
- cultural excursions
- a mandatory joint summer camp bringing all participants together to develop a service project that meets the needs of their communities

What does the Program provide?

- Round-trip domestic and international travel
- Placement with a selected U.S./Poland host family
- Program orientation activities including pre-program preparation
- Program activities arranged in local communities
- Incidental spending allowance
- Medical insurance, excluding pre-existing conditions and dental care

What is NOT provided?

The Program does NOT cover the following costs:

- Acquisition of an international passport
- Excess baggage costs
- International telephone calls or an email account



Eligibility

All U.S.-Poland Program candidates must meet the following requirements:

Polish candidates:

- Be between the ages of 15 and 17 (your birth date must be between 15 February 1994 and 15 January 1997, inclusive)
- Be currently enrolled in a secondary or high school in Wroclaw, Krakow or Lublin
- Have an academic standing of “good” or better
- Have previously studied English and demonstrate English language ability at the time of registration
- Be a citizen of Poland
- Meet U.S. visa eligibility requirements
- Commit to attending a 4-day summer camp with U.S. participants, to be held in Torun in late June/early July 2012

U.S. candidates:

- Be between the ages of 15 and 17 (your birth date must be between 15 June 1994 and 15 May 1997)
- Be currently enrolled in a secondary or high school in Monument (CO), Hanford (CA) or Fridley (MN)
- Have an academic standing of “good” or better
- Be a U.S. citizen or Resident Alien (green card holder)

The application process consists of:

- An online application including teacher recommendation, can be found here: [ais/americancouncils.org/ais](http://ais.americancouncils.org/ais)
- SLEP test (for the Polish candidates)
- Proctored essays and a statement of purpose
- A face-to-face interview with program staff