



HOST AN AMBASSADOR.
BE AN AMBASSADOR.

AMERICAN COUNCILS

for International Education is a premier, international nonprofit creating educational opportunities that prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in our interconnected world. Being immersed in other countries and cultures enables individuals to grow personally and professionally while empowering them to address – and solve – the world's most complex political, economic, and social challenges.



FLEX student receives her certificate from U.S. Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Pamela L. Sprattlen

OPEN YOUR HOME. RECEIVE THE WORLD IN RETURN.

Each year, families of all types across the U.S. — from a small rural town in Idaho to New York City — open their homes to an international “son” or “daughter” and expand their lives.

Our international exchange students are exceptional. They are bright, motivated high school students representing 50+ countries who compete to come to the U.S. to experience American values and culture firsthand. These scholarship students, who are proficient in English and budding leaders in their community, desire to share a home with an American host family and attend high school for an academic year.

On average, only 1 out of every 50 applicants is accepted into this elite group of scholarship students, who are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Embassies abroad. Our “host” sons and daughters go on to become heads of state, researchers, leaders of nonprofit organizations, human rights advocates, and more.

Be an ambassador of American culture and values by opening your home to an international exchange student. Your family deserves the world.

OUR PARTICIPANTS

AMERICAN COUNCILS SUPPORTS

MORE THAN
7,500
PARTICIPANTS

WITH
250 UNIQUE
PROGRAMS ANNUALLY

AMERICAN COUNCILS COMPRISES

OVER
50,000
ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

INCLUDING GOVERNMENT LEADERS,
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS, BUSINESS
INNOVATORS, AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

WHY FAMILIES HOST

Share a New Culture

As a host, you are able to learn about the world beyond the U.S. through the eyes of a teenager, from cultural traditions and celebrations to food, music, and language.



Bridging cultures

Inspire a Young Person

“It’s been a wonderful journey being a part of the lives of extraordinary young people who want to make this world a better place. They energize my life with their own enthusiasm and desire to learn. Volunteering with them has put us in touch with great things going on in our own community to help people in need. Staying in touch has enriched all our lives through the years.”
The Peterson Family, Orlando, Florida



Forging connections

Be an Ambassador of American Culture and Values

“We’ve seen the incredible potential of young people from all over the world. Our student frequently showed us how similar, rather than different, he is to us.” The Watts Family, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Making friends

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Student visits Mount Rushmore in South Dakota



YES students share their American experiences with each other

WHO CAN HOST?

Host families and individuals are as varied as the U.S. population itself, from single parents and couples without children to military families, empty nesters, and retirees. The requirements are straightforward: host families must agree to speak English with their student and provide a supportive environment, a bed to sleep in, a place to study, meals, and a window into American life.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

We support scholarship students from 50+ countries across the globe. Over 25,000 students have participated so far and have volunteered over 1 million hours in the communities in which they lived! All students, aged 15 to 17, have participated in an open, highly competitive, merit-based selection process. Students are selected based on their English language proficiency, academic performance, teacher recommendations, leadership qualities, maturity, and ability to adapt to a new cultural environment and life with a host family.



Student gardens for a service project with Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen

During their time in the U.S., students perform community service, make cultural presentations, and participate in workshops and activities that build leadership skills as well as an understanding and appreciation of civic responsibility, diversity, and advocacy.

PROGRAMS WITH IMPACT



FLEX A model for numerous scholarship programs, FLEX has brought over 20,000 participants to the U.S. since its inception in 1993. FLEX students represent 10 Eurasian countries.



KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) YES was established in October 2002 in response to September 11, 2001. It offers students from countries with significant Muslim populations exposure to life in the U.S., and seeks to foster increased understanding and mutual respect between the U.S. and the 37+ countries they represent.



AMERICAN-SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE (A-SMYLE) A-SMYLE began in 2006, and supports mutual understanding between Serbia and Montenegro and the U.S. while promoting leadership and cultural exchange.



EXCHANGES FOR CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP (EXCEL) EXCEL seeks to enhance U.S.-Lithuanian relations by promoting strong ties between a new generation of young Lithuanian and American leaders through scholarships that cover one year of academic study in the U.S. Established in 2010, EXCEL is an initiative of the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania.

INSPIRING STORIES

American Councils has provided life-changing experiences to over 50,000 alumni around the world



BE CONFIDENT

"IT WAS THAT YEAR ABROAD THAT AWARDED ME WITH AN ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF, STRIVE FOR MORE, AND NEVER BACK DOWN. WITHOUT IT, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BECOME THE PERSON I AM NOW."

ELEONORA from Kaunas, Lithuania, studied in Missouri on the ExCEL program (2010) and credits her time in the U.S. with newfound motivation, becoming Student Council President upon her return to Lithuania.

BE AMBITIOUS

"THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE HAS ALLOWED ME TO DO NEW THINGS AND LEARN AT THE SAME TIME."

IVAN from Kolasin, Montenegro, studied in North Carolina on the A-SMYLE program (2009) and was instrumental in forming the Montenegrin American Youth Alumni Association, which promotes civic and cultural engagement in Montenegro and the Balkans.



BE EMPOWERED

"I AM SURE MY FIRST TRIP TO THE U.S. HELPED ME IN ACHIEVING WHAT I HAVE NOW. IT WAS DEFINITELY A GOOD START TO MY FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS."

ANTONINA from Kherson's'ka oblast, Ukraine, studied in New York on the FLEX program (1996) and went on to study economics and business. She currently runs her own consultancy business in Ukraine.



ARE YOU INSPIRED?

GIVE YOUR FAMILY AN AUTHENTIC,
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE...AT HOME.



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