



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE-SPONSORED PROGRAM  
KENNEDY- LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE & STUDY (YES) 2019-2020**

**DATE: May 1, 2018**

**TO: STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE YES PROGRAM**

**FROM: AFS INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS PHILIPPINES & THE U.S. EMBASSY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**RE: CALL FOR PRE- APPLICATIONS FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE-SPONSORED PROGRAM: KENNEDY- LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES)**

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**CALL FOR PRE- APPLICATIONS FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE-SPONSORED PROGRAM  
KENNEDY- LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) 2019-2020**

AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines are pleased to announce the opening of applications for the next cycle of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (2019-2020 Batch). This program is a U.S. government-funded exchange programs designed to expand communication between the people of the United States and partner countries with sizeable Muslim populations in the interest of promoting mutual understanding and respect. YES program offers full scholarship to high school students, including students with physical disabilities, in 51 countries. Students will live with host families, attend a U.S. high school, engage in activities to learn about American society and values, acquire leadership skills, and help educate Americans about their countries and cultures. The YES program is funded by the U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in partnership with the American Councils for International Education and the YES program consortium.

**The goals of the program are to:**

- Promote a better understanding among youth from selected YES countries about American society, people, institutions, values, and culture;
- Foster lasting personal ties;
- Engage the exchange participants in activities that promote mutual understanding, respect for diversity, leadership skills, and an understanding of civil society during their exchange in the U.S.;
- Enhance Americans' understanding of foreign students' countries and cultures; and
- Increase the capacity of organizations in participating countries to engage youth in activities that enhance mutual understanding, respect for diversity, leadership skills, and an understanding of civil society through alumni activities.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Philippine citizen residing in the Philippines at the time of application, selection and preparation for travel; Birthdate must be between August 2, 2001 and August 1, 2004.
2. Currently enrolled in a public/private junior or senior high school and is among the top 25% of academic performance in grade level; Graduating senior high school (Grade 12) students are not eligible to apply.
3. Demonstrated leadership potential in school and/or community.
4. Have an equivalent of a B average or better without failing grades.
5. Have not completed more than 11 years of primary education nor received a high school diploma (senior high school) by the start of the program.
6. Demonstrated English language ability sufficient to study in a native English-medium setting.
7. Sufficiently healthy to participate.
8. Preferably have not previously studied in the U.S.
9. Committed to cultural immersion in the U.S. through a home-stay experience.
10. Able to meet cross-cultural challenges with maturity, humor and open mind.
11. Plans to share his/her U.S. experience with his/her home and community upon return.

The program can support Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and encourages their participation.

## REQUIRED PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

1. Pre-Application Form downloadable at <http://www.afs.ph>; filled-up and with 2x2 ID sized photo with white background
2. Photocopy of most recent Form 137 or transcript of records from your Philippine high school
3. Photocopy of valid ID or government ID
4. Signed consent by either a parent or legal guardian at the bottom of the pre-application form

## SUBMISSION POLICY

All applications must be received by AFS PHI on or before July 6, 2018, 1:00 PM. All printed application documents must be sent by mail or courier to:

ATTN: PROGRAMS TEAM  
AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines  
Unit 1607 16/F Antel Global Corporate Center  
No. 3 Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center  
1600 Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines  
Telephone: 02-584-2002  
Website: <http://www.afs.ph>  
E-mail address: [phi.YESprogram@afs.org](mailto:phi.YESprogram@afs.org)

If application will be submitted via email, please send it to [phi.YESprogram@afs.org](mailto:phi.YESprogram@afs.org) with an email subject of “YES 2019-20 Pre-Application Form”

For those who need assistance in sending their application forms, AFS Philippines and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines have identified drop-off points near your areas and designated a contact person who will provide help, collect and send applications to AFS Philippines. Deadline for submission of applications at drop off points is June 29, 2018. Please submit your application at our drop-off points or hand them to our local volunteers and alumni on or before June 29, 2018, 1:00pm. Please feel free to contact them. Other applicants can send in their application package directly to AFS Philippines.

AREA	DROP-OFF POINT	CONTACT PERSON	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL
TAWI-TAWI	American Corner Tawi-Tawi Mindanao State University	Mary Margaret D. Clerigo (American Corner Tawi-Tawi Librarian)	0926 533 1133	Marymargaret_c@yahoo.com

	Tawi-Tawi School of Arts and Trade	Ravener Amil (USG-YES Alum)	09654320152	ravener.amil@gmail.com
<b>JOLO, SULU</b>	American Corner Jolo Sulu, Notre Dame of Jolo College	Arnold Catipay (American Corner Jolo Director)	0917 775 5277	Catipay05@yahoo.com
		Mohammad Adzlan Usman (USG-YES Alum)	09357316623	mohadzusman@gmail.com
<b>BASILAN</b>	Geras Integrated School	Shandra Jane Irlis (USG-YES Alum)	09351151139	shandrajane15@yahoo.com
	Lamitan National High School	Jay-R Sakar (AFS Volunteer)	0975 268 8221	Jay22_2006@yahoo.com
<b>ZAMBOANGA CITY</b>	American Corner, Ateneo de Zamboanga University	Lynnie Calingacion (American Corner Zamboanga Director)	0918 273 9997	Lynnie.calingacion@gmail.com
		Aiza Dahman (USG-YES Alum)	09552794589	aizadahman@gmail.com
<b>ILIGAN CITY</b>	Iligan City National High School – Main	Ainie Tabua (USG-YES-Alum)	09062900492	ainie.rtabua@gmail.com
<b>MARAWI CITY</b>	American Corner, Mindanao State University	Marcelito Buenafe (American Corner Marawi Librarian)	0975 293 9559	Marbuenafe2002@yahoo.com
	Mindanao State University Main Campus	Sittie Ayeenah Arindig (USG-YES Alum)	09090429754	arindigsittieayeenah@yahoo.com.ph
<b>GENERAL SANTOS CITY</b>	City Social Welfare Development Office	Hadija S. Odoya (AFS Volunteer)	0923 415 4292	Jang_odoya@yahoo.com
	Buayan National High School	Noralyn Joy O. Ramos (AFS Volunteer)	0923 272 2107 0917 309 2537	noralynjoyramos@gmail.com

	Mindanao State University – CETD	Shar Jathiya Sheik (USG-YES Alum)	09224010412	shar.sheik@gmail.com
<b>COTABATO CITY</b>	American Corner, Notre Dame University	Sonia dela Cruz (American Corner Cotabato Director)	(064) 421 9942 (064) 421 2698 loc 325 0919 338 0551	Sonia_ndu@yahoo.com
	Cotabato City National High School – Main	Abdulcader Alsoufi (USG-YES-Alum)	09261238568	abdulcader.alsoufi@hotmail.com
	Pikit National High School	Reynante Catulong (Department Head, Araling Panlipunan)	09105053828	reynantecatulong@yahoo.com
<b>DAVAO</b>	American Corner, Ateneo de Davao University	Fretzie Fajardo (Director of Libraries)	(082) 221 2411 loc 8207	fafajardo@addu.edu.ph
		Nouf Heindth Berago (USG-YES Alum)	09979212462	berago.naufheindth@gmail.com
	Sirawan National High School	Suhura Del Monte Hallarsis (School Librarian)	0915 358 9946	suhurahdelmonte@gmail.com
<b>PAGADIAN CITY</b>	Pagadian City Science High School	Stenely Marie Arao (AFS-YES Coordinator)	09073446397	Stenelymarie_28@yahoo.com
		Aya Sophia Gaito (USG-YES Alum)	09271300832	Ayasophia.gaito@gmail.com

<b>METRO MANILA</b>	AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines	Sofia Dela Cruz (USG-YES- Alum)	09352257101	Delacruz2_sofia@gmail.com
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**NOTES:**

1. All applications can be submitted to the AFS PHI office as hard copies (courier/mail) or soft copies (email).
2. If sending printed copies, applicants must submit only the photocopies of original documents. AFS PHI will not be responsible in sending back original copies.
3. When emailing scan pre-application form and other documents it should be at least 100 dpi resolution.
4. Applicants who have family members (father, mother, sister or brother) and cousins within the first degree who have participated in the previous ECA-DOS sponsored exchange programs are NOT qualified to participate in this program. This restriction applies as well to AFS PHI staff and board members up to the third degree.
5. AFS PHI will announce (and will notify) ONLY the semifinalists starting by the last week of July. Only semifinalists are invited to the interviews during the months of August to October.

Pre-applications for the YES Program will be accepted on May 1, 2018 until July 6, 2018. For more information, interested applicants may email [phi.YESprogram@afs.org](mailto:phi.YESprogram@afs.org) or visit <http://www.afs.ph> or <https://ph.usembassy.gov>.

Thank you very much and best wishes.