



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS -  
KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) PROGRAM 2020-2021**

**DATE: APRIL 22, 2019**

**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 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SPONSORED PROGRAM KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) PROGRAM**

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**CALL FOR PRE-APPLICATIONS FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS –  
KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY (YES) PROGRAM 2020-21**

AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines are pleased to announce the opening of the applications for the next cycle of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Programs (2020-2021 batch). This program is a U.S. government-funded exchange program 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. The 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. State 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 understanding of civil society through alumni activities.

**ELIGIBILITY**

1. Philippine citizen residing in the Philippines, at the time of application, selection and preparation for travel. Participants must have spent more than 50% of the last 5 years in the Philippines and have current family plans of returning to the Philippines after the program.
2. Must be born between **August 2, 2002** and **August 1, 2005**.
3. Be enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of application; 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.
4. Be among the top 25% of academic performance in their grade level.
5. Have an equivalent of a B average or better without failing grades.
6. Strong academic and social skills, openness, and flexibility.
7. Demonstrated English language ability sufficient to study in a native English-medium setting.
8. Sufficiently healthy to participate in the program.
9. No previous significant travel to the U.S. on a U.S. government-sponsored program.
10. Committed to cultural immersion in the U.S through a home-stay experience.
11. Able to meet cross-cultural challenges with maturity, humor, and an open mind.
12. Meet U.S. J-1 visa eligibility requirements (for instance, U.S. citizens are not eligible for J-1 visa).
13. Plans to share his/her experience with his/her home community upon return.

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

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Duly Accomplished Pre-Application Form downloadable at <http://www.afs.ph>.
2. Recent 2x2 ID-sized photo with white background attached to the application form
3. Signed Certification and Consent Form by a parent or legal guardian
4. Photocopy of Authenticated PSA Birth Certificate
5. Photocopy of most recent Form 137 or transcript of records from your Philippine high school
6. Photocopy of valid or government ID

## SUBMISSION POLICY

- A. All applications must be received by AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines **no later than 4:00pm July 12, 2019**.
- B. Applications can be submitted to AFS Philippines as printed or scanned copies.
- C. If submitting an application as soft/scanned copies, all pages and requirements must be scanned clearly with 100 dpi resolution, in PDF format and sent to [phi.YESprogram@afs.org](mailto:phi.YESprogram@afs.org) with the email subject: YES2020-21 Application\_Surname\_First Name (i.e. YES2020-21 Application\_Ali\_Fatima)
- D. And if submitting as printed copies, direct it to **AFS PHILIPPINES PROGRAMS** at the complete address below:

AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines  
Unit 1607, 16F Antel Global Corporate Center  
No.3 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center  
1600 Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines  
TeleFax: (02) 584 2002  
Email: [phi.YESprogram@afs.org](mailto:phi.YESprogram@afs.org)

OR printed applications can be submitted to the following authorized drop off points located near you, listed below.

AREA	DROP-OFF POINT	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT INFORMATION	
<b>Metro Manila</b>	AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines National Office	Sofia Dela Cruz, YES Alumna	+639213806461	delacruz2_sofia@gmail.com
		Al-Noor Hadjimanan, YES Alumnus	+639281840003	hadjimanan_alnoor2@gmail.com
<b>Lanao del Norte</b>	Department of Education (DepEd) – Iligan Office	Erlinda Basmayor, Scholarship-In-Charge	+639269982986	
		Ainie Tabua, YES Alumna	+639062900492	ainie.rtabua@gmail.com
<b>Lanao del Sur</b>	American Corner, Marawi – Mindanao State University – Main	Elin Anisha Guro, AC – Marawi Director	+639171094994	elin.anisha@gmail.com, acmarawi2018@gmail.com
		Marcelito Buenafe, AC – Marawi Librarian	+639752939559	marbuenafe2002@yahoo.com, buenafemarcelito@gmail.com
		Moner Ramos-Datu, YES Alumnus	+639457547539	monerramosdatu1@gmail.com
<b>Davao</b>	American Corner, Davao – Ateneo de Davao University	Fretzie Fajardo, AC – Davao Library Director	(082) 221 2411 local 8207	fafajardo@addu.edu.ph
		Nova Manzo, AC – Davao, Librarian		nrmanzo@addu.edu.ph
<b>Cotabato City</b>	American Corner, Cotabato – Notre Dame University	Charlyn Tacan	(064) 421 2698 local 325	cstacancharlyn@gmail.com
		Dina Mae Ybot		dinamaeybot629@gmail.com
	Cotabato City State Polytechnic College – College of Arts and Sciences	Abdul Rahman S. Alongan, YES Alumnus	+639178469346	abdulrahman_alongan@yahoo.com
<b>Maguindanao 1 Division</b>	Mindanao State University –	Fatma Nor Alaisa A. Macog, YES Alumna	+639563123664	fnalaissamacog@gmail.com

	Maguindanao – Office Research Services			
<b>Maguindanao 2 Division</b>	Mamasapano National High School	Nelcy L. Oños, English Coordinator	+639358151840	
<b>North Cotabato</b>	University of Southern Mindanao – University Laboratory School, Stem XI	Ysmael Abdul, YES Alumnus	+639975432754	ysmaelabdul@gmail.com
<b>SOCCSKSARGEN</b>	City Social Welfare Development Office	Hadija S. Odoya, AFS-YES Volunteer	+639232722107, +639173092537	jang_odoya@yahoo.com
	Buayan National High School	Noralyn Joy O. Ramos, AFS-YES Volunteer	+639232722107, +639173092537	noralynjoyramos@gmail.com
	Mindanao State University – CETD	Shar Jathiya Sheik, YES Alumna	+639224010412	shar.sheik@gmail.com
<b>Zamboanga del Sur</b>	Pagadian City Science High School	Stenely Marie Arao, Teacher/AFS-YES Volunteer	+639667901655, +639187278545	blueseptember28@gmail.com
		Mohamad Al Ramber, Teacher and PYLP Alumnus	+639569859834	moal_ramber@yahoo.com
		Niño Jan Pol Dosdos, PYLP Alumnus	+639505631897	dosdosnjp@gmail.com
<b>Zamboanga Sibugay</b>	Kabasalan Science and Technology High School	Mapo Castillo, Jr, Teacher/ICT Coordinator	+639778544402	castillo.mapojr@gmail.com
<b>Zamboanga City</b>	American Corner – Ateneo de Zamboanga University	Lynnie Calingacion, AC – Zamboanga Director	(062) 991 0871 local 2230	lynnie.calingacion@gmail.com, calingacionlynm@adzu.edu.ph
		Agnes Lim, AC – Zamboanga Librarian		limagns@adzu.edu.ph

		Aiza Dahman, YES Alumna	+639552794589	aizadahman@gmail.com
<b>Basilan</b>	Geras National High School	Shandra Jane A. Irilis – Teacher and YES Alumna	+639351151139	shandrajane15@gmail.com
	Baas Elementary School	Jay-R M. Sakar – Teacher and PYLP Alumnus	+639656390968	jaysakar@gmail.com, jay_222006@yahoo.com
<b>Sulu</b>	American Corner – Notre Dame of Jolo College	Arnold Catipay, AC – Jolo Director	+639177756277	catipay05@yahoo.com, ajmora0817@gmail.com
<b>Tawi-Tawi</b>	American Corner – Mindanao State University	Raul Rebollos, AC – Tawi-Tawi Director		rfrebollos15@yahoo.com
		Mary Margaret D. Clerigo, AC – Tawi-Tawi Librarian	+639152417617	clerigomary21@gmail.com
		Urduja Sauragal, YES Alumna	+639352234064	sauragal.urduja@gmail.com
		Ravener Amil, YES Alumnus	+639654320152	ravener.amil@gmail.com

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. 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 programs and other AFS Philippines-administered sponsored programs are regrettably automatically disqualified to participate in this program. This restriction applies as well to AFS Philippines staff and board members up to the third degree.
2. AFS Philippines will only announce (and notify) those who are shortlisted and invited for the Regional Selection and Interview Camp by the last week of July up until first week of August.

Pre-Applications for the YES Program will be accepted from April 22, 2019 until July 12, 2019. For more information, interested applicants may email [phi.YESprogram@afs.org](mailto:phi.YESprogram@afs.org) or visit <http://www.afs.org> or <https://ph.usembassy.gov>.

Thank you, very much, and best wishes.