## YES Program Specific Information

### YES Program Overview:

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program was established in October 2002. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, along with the U.S. exchange community, recognized the importance of youth exchange as a key component to building bridges between citizens of the United States and countries around the world, particularly those with significant Muslim populations.

The program officially launched in the Philippines in 2004 in hopes to expand communication between the people of the United States and in order to promote mutual understanding and respect. Since then over 545 Filipino students have completed the YES program and now participate as Alumni,

YES Program supports students with disabilities and encourages their participation. The U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works with a separate organization to provide students with disabilities with leadership-building workshops and appropriate information and support as needed to enhance their experience in the United States.

### The goals of the program are to;

- Promote a better understanding among from the 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 understanding of civil society during their exchange in the U.S.;
- Enhance American's 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.

### Requirements:

- Duly accomplished Pre-Application Form.
- Recent 2x2 ID sized photo with white background attached in the application form.
- Signed Certification and Consent Form by a parent or legal guardian.
- Photocopy of authenticated PSA Birth Certificate
- Photocopy of most recent form 137 or transcript of records from your Philippine high school.
- Photocopy of valid government ID.

***Important Note:*** *Application form with incomplete information and requirements will lead to* ***disqualification.***

## Eligibility:

1. Philippine citizen residing in the Philippines, at the same time of application, selection, and preparation for travel. Preference will be given to participants who 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. Be between ages 15-18 years old (born between **August 1, 2004** and **August 1, 2007**) by the start of the program (August 1, 2022).
3. Be enrolled in 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th 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, or 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.

***Important Note:*** *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 regretfully automatically disqualified to participate in this program. This restriction applies as well to AFS Philippines staff and board members up to the third degree.*

# PRE-APPLICATION FORM 2022 – 2023

Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES)

Funded/Sponsored by:

Please attach recent 2x2-size photo here

## I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Complete name as appears in PSA birth certificate/passport: (Last/First/Middle) | | Birthdate: (mm/dd/yy) | Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female |
| Complete home/mailing address: (House No. Street, Barangay, City/Municipality, Province) | | Region: | Zip Code: |
| Home phone with area code: | Mobile Phone/s: | Email Address: | |
| Name of Father/Legal Guardian (for minors): | | Name of Mother/Legal Guardian (for minors): | |
| Father's Job/Occupation: | | Mother's Job/Occupation: | |
| Name of Employer/Business (if owned): | | Name of Employer/Business (if owned): | |
| Work/Mobile Phone: | Email Address: | Work/Mobile Phone: | Email Address: |
| Passport No.: | Passport Issue Date: | Passport Expiry Date: | Country issuing passport: **PHILIPPINES** |
| Religion: ☐ Christianity ☐ Islam ☐ Other: _____ | Ethnic Background (if applicable): | Food/s I cannot eat: | Native/Foreign Languages Spoken: |
| | | Are you a student with disability? If yes, please specify. Otherwise, kindly put N/A | |

Family/Relative who has participated in a YES Program or other AFS Exchange Programs:

☐ Yes, I have a relative who has participated in YES Program or AFS Exchange Programs.
☐ No, I don't have a relative who has participated in YES Program or AFS Exchange Programs.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| If yes, Name of Relative/s: | Relationship: | Program Name and Destination: | Date (Month/Year) of Departure: |

YES Program: I learned about YES through:

☐ YESAlumni ☐ AFS Returnee/Volunteer ☐ Friends Relatives ☐ Internet ☐ Print (newspaper/brochure/poster)

☐ Other: _____

*This form is provided free for charge and may be photocopied/reproduced.*
*YES Alumni/ AFS Staff / Volunteer and US Embassy in Manila DO NOT collect any fees from YES applicants or schools.*
*For inquiries, please email: phi.YESprogram@afs.org*

## II. SCHOOL INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Complete school name (no abbreviations): | | Type of School:<br>☐ Public<br>☐ Private<br>☐ Dormitory<br>☐ Special Education | |
| Complete school mailing address: (House No., Barangay, City/Municipality, Province): | | Region: | Zip Code: |
| Complete name of school principal/administrator: | | | |
| Telephone: | Fax : | Mobile Phone: | Email Address: |
| 2020 – 2021: **Year Level** in Academic: | | 2018 – 2019: **Average Grade** in Academic: | |
| | | 2019 – 2020: **Average Grade** in Academic: | |
| 2022 – 2023: **Year Level** in Academic: | | 2020 – 2021: **Average Grade** in Academic: | |

I hereby certify that the above information on the student's application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement may disqualify the student for benefits.

_____

Signature over printed name of school administrative

## Selection Process

AFS Philippines will only notify those who are shortlisted and be invited for a Zoom interview with the team of AFS Philippines and key alumni/volunteers.

The YES Program covers the following for the selected finalists:

- U.S. J-1 Visa
- International travel ticket between home country and the U.S., including only one checked-in luggage.
- Domestic Travels during the following:
  - U.S. In-person visa interview and English Enhancement Workshop, from and to your hometown.
  - Immediate Pre-departure Orientation, from and to your hometown.
  - Immediate Re-entry/Return Orientation, from and to your host community in the U.S.
  - End of stay/Program Orientation, from and to your host community in the U.S.
- Placement in a host family and U.S. High School.
- Orientations in home country and in the U.S. (English Enhancement Workshop, Pre-departure Orientation, Arrival Orientation, Mid-stay Orientation, End-of-Stay Orientation, and Re-entry/Return Orientation)
- Program Enrichment Activities
- Medical Insurance
- Monthly Stipend

***Important Note:*** *Any kind of pre-existing conditions will not be covered by the provided Medical Insurance.*

List of documents and requirements that are not covered by the YES program and has to prepared by the program candidates:

- Passport
- DSWD Travel Clearance for Minor
- Medical Examinations, including but not limited to TB Skin Test (see list of accepted TB skin testing).
  Immunization and vaccinations that are mandatory (see list of vaccinations required by the program).
  Pre-existing medical conditions and allergies, dental care, and eye care.
- Excess or overweight baggage cost.
- Personal expenses and trips during the program

***Important note:*** *AFS Philippines will only notify those selected candidates in due course.*

## Essay Part I

| Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)<br>*Note: No cursive allowed.* | Program:<br><br>YES Program 20 to 20_ |
|---|---|

**How does the YES program, as you know it, will be able to help you in achieving your goals in learning, helping your community, and future? Please include some of your goals and how they relate to the YES program.**

*(300 words max)*

## Essay Part II

| Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)<br>*Note: No cursive allowed.* | Program:<br><br>YES Program 20 to 20_ |
|---|---|

**What makes you a good leader? Using two examples, describe how you are a leader in your school, community and/or home.** (*300wordsmax)*

## Essay Part III

| Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)<br>*Note: No cursive allowed.* | Program:<br><br>YES Program 20 to 20_ |
|---|---|

**Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What encouraged you to act? Would you make the same decision again?** (*300 words max)*

## Essay Part IV

| Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)<br>*Note: No cursive allowed.* | Program:<br><br>YES Program 20 to 20_ |
|---|---|

**What does it mean to be a good representative of your country? What are your personal qualities that will help you be a good representative of your country?** *(300 words max)*

## Essay Part V

| Complete name as appears on PSA birth certificate/passport/school record: (Last/First/Middle)<br>*Note: No cursive allowed.* | Program:<br><br>YES Program 20 to 20_ |
|---|---|

**An exciting aspect of the YES program is living with a U.S. family. What attributes do you have that would make you a good new family member for the host family? What would you share with them about your life and country?** (*300wordsmax)*

## CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT

I hereby certify that above information on my application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and ability. I understand that any false information may cause my disqualification from the program. And any incomplete information will lead to disqualification.

If selected as grantee, I commit to participate actively in all activities before, during and after the YES Program.

Signature over printed name of applicant _____ Date _____

Parent's/Guardian's consent for the applicant to participate in the program.

Signature over printed name of father/guardian _____ Date _____

Signature over printed name of mother/guardian _____ Date _____

## SUBMISSION POLICY

1. All applications must be received by AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines **NO LATER** than 5:00 PM on October 22, 2021.
2. AFS Philippines will only accept scanned copy of applications via email.
3. All pages and requirements must be scanned clearly with **100 dpi resolution, in PDF format and send it to phi.YESprogram@afs.org** with the email subject:

   **YES 2022-2023 / Application_Surname_First Name (Example: YES 2022-2023 Application_DelaCruz_Juan)**

**OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. Pre-application is provided free of any charges and can be photocopied.
2. AFS/U.S. Embassy in the Philippines Staff, and YES Alumni do not collect any fees from YES applicants or schools.
3. U.S. Host School do not provide an official Transcript of Grade nor a Diploma.
4. U.S. Grade Accreditation will be the participant's school (Philippine School) discretion; All concerns regarding grade placement/accreditation in the Philippines is not covered by the YES Program. Thus, participants are highly encouraged to communicate this kind of concern to their school in the Philippines.