



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH AZERBAIJAN
IS A PROGRAM OF THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (ECA)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ADMINISTERED
BY AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ACT R ▲ ACC ELS

Program Description:

The Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan (YLP) is a short-term cultural and educational exchange program focused on expanding relationships between U.S. and Azerbaijani students, educators, and communities from differing ethnic, religious, and social groups and strengthening ties between the two countries. Program activities will inspire youth participants with a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to community service. The program will seek to develop a group of community organizers who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers at home as they work toward common societal goals and interests.

Two groups of 34 Azerbaijani high school students and six teachers/community leaders will travel to the United States in the summer of 2012 and 2013 and visit the program sites of Seattle, Washington or Tempe, Arizona and Washington, D.C. Azerbaijani participants aged 15-17 and teachers/community leaders will participate in a three-week program. Additionally, two groups of 17 American high school students together with three teachers/community leaders will travel to Azerbaijan in the summer of 2012 and 2013 and visit the program sites in Baku, Ganja, and Sheki for three weeks. All YLP participants will explore the theme of social entrepreneurship for youth to illustrate the program's broader themes of civic responsibility, youth leadership development, respect for diversity, and community involvement. The program will conclude with an orientation in the Washington, D.C. area.

Program organizers will develop comprehensive agendas centered on the theme of social entrepreneurship for youth. Participants from each country will be exposed to one another's history, language, and culture through program activities, and will interact with host country peers. Participants will be encouraged to implement projects that serve a community need and share what they learned on-program upon returning home.

Students will be divided into two groups and accompanied by three teachers/community leaders from Azerbaijan. Each group will travel to a U.S. community, to live with American host families, and actively participate in a program that focuses on a specific theme. Each city has a different theme;

- participants in Seattle, Washington will focus on personal and group leadership; service and social responsibility; citizenship and discourse; and perspective and diversity.
- groups travelling to Tempe, Arizona will investigate entrepreneurship issues, indigenous communities, human rights issues, and critical thinking skills.

YLP groups will reconvene for a workshop in the Washington, D.C. area to share program experiences and focus on how to continue the exchange experience once participants return home. Participants will work to develop plans for their follow-on projects and participate in a post-program workshop for Azerbaijani participants in Baku.

The Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan will enable participants to:

- develop their sense of civic responsibility and commitment to community development;
- become part of a group of community organizers who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers through positive action and collaboration;
- foster understanding and build relationships with youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups;
- promote mutual understanding between the people of Azerbaijan and the United States.



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

YLPA Program Calendar

Application deadline	November 18, 2011
Selection notification	March 2012
Azerbaijani and U.S. YLP virtual Global Youth Service Day event	April 2012
Pre-departure orientation for Azerbaijani participants in Baku	August 2012
Azerbaijani participants travel to the U.S.	September 2012
Post-program workshop for Azerbaijani participants.	December 2012

Eligibility Requirements –Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan:

To apply for the program, students must certify that they meet the eligibility requirements outlined below.

- Must be 15 to 17 years of age at the start of the program (birth date must be between January 1, 1995, and August 15, 1997, inclusive),
- Must be an 8th, 9th, or 10th grade student when applying for the program,
- Must be currently enrolled in a participating secondary school in one of the following cities or regions: Baku and Absheron Peninsula, including Sumqayit, the Southern Region of Azerbaijan including Salyan, Jalilabad, Lankaran, Massali, and Lerik, and the Western Region of Azerbaijan including Ganja, Tovus, Agstafa, and Gazakh, and the Central Region of Azerbaijan including Kurdamir, Imishli and Shirvan,
- Must have an academic standing of "good" or better,
- Must have previously studied English and will demonstrate a high level of English-language ability at the time of registration,
- Must be a citizen of Azerbaijan,
- Must demonstrate leadership potential and a desire to contribute to the community,
- Must meet U.S. visa eligibility requirements,
- Must be able to travel to the U.S. in September 2012,
- Must commit to participating in a [Global Youth Service Day](#) event on the weekend of April 20-22, 2012, and the virtual development of the program with other YLP participants, and
- Must **not** be an immediate family member of individuals who work with the YLP at the U.S. Department of State, American Councils, or one of the implementing organizations.

How to Apply to the Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Applicants must:

- Complete the application form and essay questions on-line.
- Upload a copy of your identification card (shexsiyyet vesigesi). If you do not have an ID , you can attach a copy of your birth certificate.
- Upload a visa photo (5x5).

Applicants must provide all parts of the application, ID copy or birth certificate AND visa photos. If the application is not complete the applicant will not be considered for the program. Semi-finalists will be notified of their status mid-December, 2011 and will be invited for an interview and further testing in December 2011.

Where and When to Submit Your Application

Applications must be submitted online at <http://ais.americancouncils.org> or to the American Councils office in Baku by November 18, 2011.

Paper applications must be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN **November 18, 2011**, and mailed to:

<p>Ramina Murshudova American Councils for International Education Caspian Business Center 40, J. Jabbarli Str., 2nd floor AZ1065 Baku AZERBAIJAN</p>
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Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan Application for Azerbaijani Students

Application Deadline: **November 18, 2011, at 23:59 Washington, D.C., time**

About the Program

The Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan (YLP) for program year 2012 is a three-week exchange program focusing on expanding relationships between U.S. and Azerbaijani students, educators, and communities from differing ethnic, religious, and social groups and strengthening ties between the two countries. The program is sponsored by the [U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#), and is administered by [American Councils for International Education:ACTR/ACCELS \(American Councils\)](#).

Purpose:

- To engage participants in activities to increase their mutual understanding and develop their skills and knowledge about the program themes of civic responsibility, youth leadership development, respect for diversity, and community engagement.

Objectives:

- To develop a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to international understanding and cooperation among youth
- To develop a cadre of youth leaders who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers through positive action

Goals:

- To promote mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and Azerbaijan
- To ensure enduring ties between both governments and societies by fostering relationships among youth

Program features for all participants include workshops in the Washington, D.C. area; homestays with host families; high school exchanges; community service projects; sessions to explore the theme of social entrepreneurship, civic rights and responsibilities, youth leadership development, respect for diversity, and community engagement; cultural excursions; and a community service workshop to bring together students, teachers, and educators from both countries to develop projects that meet the needs of the communities and to reflect on the importance of civic responsibility.

American Councils and its partners will collaborate on this project, offering students, teachers, and community members from the U.S. and Azerbaijan the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and a deeper understanding of each country's history and culture. The program promotes the establishment of enduring ties with peers from other countries while exploring the vital commonalities of education, politics, and culture.



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Program Calendar

<i>Program Date</i>	<i>Action or Event</i>
November 18, 2011 23:59 Washington, D.C., time.	Application deadline
March 2012	Selection notification
April 2012	Azerbaijani and U.S. YLP virtual Global Youth Service Day event
August 2012	Pre-departure orientation for Azerbaijani participants in Baku
September 2012	Azerbaijani participants travel to the U.S.
December 2012	Post-program workshop for Azerbaijani participants in Baku

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Ramina Murshudova
tel: (+994) (12) 436-7529/30/31
fax: (+994) (12) 436-7529
email: ylp@americancouncils.az

How to Apply and Deadlines

Application Deadline: **November 18, 2011, at 23:59 Washington, D.C., time**

Application Requirements

Applicants must:

- Complete the following application form and essay questions.
- Submit a copy of your identification card (shexsiyyet vesigesi). If you do not have an ID, you can submit a copy of your birth certificate, and
- Submit a visa photo (5cm x 5cm).

Application Deadline and Submission of Required Documents

DOCUMENTS TO MAIL IN

Paper applications must be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN **November 18, 2011**, and mailed to:

Ramina Murshudova
American Councils for International Education
Caspian Business Center
40, J. Jabbarli Str., 2nd floor
AZ1065 Baku
AZERBAIJAN

INTERVIEW AND PROGRAM TESTING

You will be notified by the American Councils representative in Baku, Azerbaijan, about the date and time for your interview, if you are chosen for an interview.



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Certify Your Eligibility

To apply for a program scholarship, you must certify that you meet the eligibility requirements outlined below. If you pass to the next level of the scholarship competition, you may be required to provide documentation of your eligibility.

Eligibility requirements for student applicants from Azerbaijan for the 2012 Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan:

- Must be 15 to 17 years of age at the start of the program (birth date must be between January 1, 1995, and August 15, 1997, inclusive),
- Must be an 8th, 9th, or 10th grade student when applying for the program,
- Must be currently enrolled in a participating secondary school in one of the following cities or regions: Baku and Absheron Peninsula, including Sumqayit, the Southern Region of Azerbaijan including Salyan, Jalilabad, Lankaran, Massali, and Lerik, and the Western Region of Azerbaijan including Ganja, Tovus, Agstafa, and Gazakh, and the Central Region of Azerbaijan including Kurdamir, Imishli and Shirvan,
- Must have an academic standing of "good" or better,
- Must have previously studied English and will demonstrate a high level of English-language ability at the time of registration,
- Must be a citizen of Azerbaijan,
- Must demonstrate leadership potential and a desire to contribute to the community,
- Must meet U.S. visa eligibility requirements,
- Must be able to travel to the U.S. in September 2012,
- Must commit to participating in a [Global Youth Service Day](#) event on the weekend of April 20-22, 2012, and the virtual development of the program with other YLP participants, and
- Must **not** be an immediate family member of individuals who work with the YLP at the U.S. Department of State, American Councils, or one of the implementing organizations.

I certify that I meet all the eligibility requirements for student applicants from Azerbaijan for the 2012 Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan listed above:

Yes

No

Certified by (Type your name):



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Biographical Information

About You

1) Last Name First Name Middle Name

2) Sex
 Male
 Female

3) Date of Birth [MMM dd, yyyy (e.g., Sep 30, 1995)]

4) Place of Birth:
City Country

Your Current Contact Information

5) Address Postal Code City

Country

6) Day Telephone [Include City Code]

7) Evening Telephone [Include City Code]

8) Mobile Telephone [Include City Code.]

9) Other telephone where you can be reached Whose Telephone is this?

10) Email Address

Your Mother / Legal Guardian

11) Current Last Name First Name Middle Name

NOTE: Provide your mother's address ONLY if it is different than yours.

12) Address Postal Code

City

Country

13) Home Telephone [Include City Code;]

14) Work Telephone [Include City Code;]

15) Mobile Telephone [Include City Code;]

16) Email Address

Your Father / Legal Guardian

17) Last Name First Name Middle Name



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

NOTE: Provide your father's address ONLY if it is different than yours.

18) Address

Postal Code

City

Country

19) Home Telephone [Include City Code;]

20) Work Telephone [Include City Code;]

21) Mobile Telephone [Include City Code;]

22) Email Address



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Academic Information

About Your School

1) Current School Name

2) Current School City

3) Current School Class (choose one)

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4) Please indicate your expected month and year of graduation. [MMM yyyy (e.g., Jun 2013)]

Previous Study or Travel Abroad

5) Have you previously studied or traveled abroad?

Yes

No

If **YES**, please list any study or travel abroad, and explain.

0 words of 100 allowed (please type and attach)

Knowledge of Languages

Please tell us about your knowledge and proficiency with your native language(s) AND English, as well as any other languages with which you have some competence.

1) Your Native Language(s) (Press the "Add More" button to add additional lines.)

#	Language Name	Reading Ability	Writing Ability	Speaking Ability	Listening Ability
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

2) English

#	Reading Ability	Writing Ability	Speaking Ability	Listening Ability
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3) Other Languages (Press the "Add More" button to add additional lines.)

#	Language Name	Reading Ability	Writing Ability	Speaking Ability	Listening Ability
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you are proficient in additional languages, please note them on an additional sheet.



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Volunteer and Community Service Activities

Past and Current Activities

Please list activities that you have participated in during the **PAST THREE (3) YEARS**.

- 1) List any volunteer or community service activities you have participated in during the past three years.

0 words of 50 allowed (please type and attach)

- 2) List any youth groups and non-governmental organizations to which you have belonged during the past three years.

0 words of 50 allowed (please type and attach)

Plan for Future Activity

- 3) What type of volunteer or community service activities would you like to participate in to improve your local community? Why are you interested in this kind of activity? Are there any particular social issues that you would like to explore? Why?

0 words of 250 allowed (please type and attach)



Youth Leadership Program with Azerbaijan

Essays

You must answer both essay questions in English. Each answer should be no more than 500 words. They can be shorter, if you like, but we suggest a minimum of 100 words per essay. We recommend that you write answers to these questions yourself, rather than ask for help from your teachers, parents, or friends.

Please attach the answers to these essays as Essay Question 1 and Essay Question 2

Essay No. 1

What three qualities do you think a good leader should possess? Which of these qualities do you possess? Give examples of how you have demonstrated these qualities.

Essay No. 2

Describe some of your ideas for community engagement initiatives in your home country. What is the goal of these initiatives? What would be considered positive outcomes?

Submission of Identification Card and Passport Photo

Please submit the following documents:

- A copy of your Azerbaijan identification card (shexsiyyet vesigesi). NOTE: If not available, submit a copy of your birth certificate.
- A visa-style photo of your face.

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