



YOUTH AMBASSADORS

A lifetime of service begins with a three-week exchange



Partners brings together youth, ages 15–17, of limited means and/or limited international experience to build understanding among countries, increase leadership skills and develop a commitment to service. Youth engage with local government and civic organizations, build relationships with host families and their peers, and participate in skills-based training that enables and empowers them to mobilize their communities toward positive change. The Youth Ambassadors program is sponsored by the United States Department of State and implemented by Partners of the Americas. The 2017 program involves participants from Colombia and Venezuela traveling to Washington followed by Tennessee and Arkansas in two separate and mixed country delegations.

Mentor Profile

Arkansas Delegation



Jeferson Giovanni Tenorio Sinisterra, 26

Jeferson lives in Cali, Colombia, where he works as an English and French teacher. He is also the co-founder of the Bochínche for Peace project which focuses on empowering young leaders to live healthy lifestyles and to serve in their communities by promoting awareness about substance abuse and teenage pregnancy. Jeferson is also a motivational speaker who often presents to various youth audiences on peace building and on how to create business empowerment programs. His hobbies consist of reading, camping, and dancing. Jeferson believes that being a mentor to the Youth Ambassadors is an opportunity to share his life experiences and he hopes to generate a spirit of service and impact within them so that they can grow as leaders.



Estefanía Lanz Duarte, 17

Estefanía is from Anzoátegui, Venezuela and is currently involved in serving her community through her involvement in the Asociación Civil Formula, Fundación Flora y Fauna, the Cantaclaro Community Council, and the Scouts of Venezuela Association. In each of these groups and organizations, she is responsible for event planning and recruiting members. She is passionate about environmental conservation and has helped train her peers on techniques to preserve trees, plants, and care for animals. Estefanía also teaches music theory and gives lessons to families in her community. She believes that her experience as a Youth Ambassador will help her achieve her long-term goals to pursue a career in international studies and to serve others with humility, generosity, and mutual understanding between nations.



Youth Profiles



Paula Fernanda Avellaneda Coy, 16

Paula is from Sogamoso, Colombia where her favorite subjects in school are English, chemistry, math, art and physics. One day, she hopes to become an industrial engineer. Her Hobbies include playing piano and volleyball, watching movies, reading, and traveling. This will be Paula's first visit outside of Colombia and as a Youth Ambassador, she hopes to be able to exchange ideas with other leaders to create large scale projects in her community as she is excited to experience the American culture. In her community, Paula is currently involved in a number of activities including the "Misioneros del Amor y La Esperanza" and is Vice President of Operation Smile Foundation Colombia. Paula has very lofty goals both for herself and her community and wants to lead a foundation aimed at helping to solve problems in her society focusing on physical health and protecting people in situations of abandonment.



Angie Yuliana Coronado Camelo, 16

Angie is from Valledupar-Cesar, Colombia where her favorite subjects are English and technical drawing. Angie is very interested in the world and her hobbies reflect that as she loves to study about diverse cultures and stories. Angie is very excited to be a Youth Ambassador and hopes through the program to be able to help spread knowledge of her community, culture, and customs. She also hopes to be a good role-model for what it means to be Colombian. Currently, Angie is involved in her community with PRAE and in her school with counseling and discipline. Angie believes that she can help her community by teaching them about the right way to treat the environment.



Carlos Alberto Males Males, 17

Carlos is from San Juan de Pasto, Colombia and loves to study math, physics, chemistry and English. He hopes to someday study engineering, graphic design, and music. Carlos has many hobbies which include reading, drawing, playing, listening to music, playing soccer and basketball. As a Youth Ambassador, Carlos is very excited to meet talented leaders that can help him develop his own leadership skills and give him a good base from which he can explore and create different ideas and projects. Carlos is currently involved in "Bilingual World" where he teaches English to children from 6-8 years old. Carlos has a lot of goals to try help himself and his community. He believes in the importance of collaboration and really hopes to be able to fix many of the problems in his community.



Juan Camilo Gutiérrez Rodríguez, 17

Juan is from Manizales-Caldas, Colombia where he enjoys studying English, biology, Spanish and math. In his spare time, Juan enjoys reading, chatting, learning English, and sight-seeing. Juan believes that through learning more languages, and acting as a Youth Ambassador, he can take back the new knowledge he learns to his community so that he can help his family and country as a positive leader. Juan is very involved in his community as he has already taught 4th and 5th graders English, annually participated in “Pesca Deportiva,” and helps out the Fundación Sanar. Juan hopes to be an integral part of his community by teaching children English and to be a community organizer working with teens on cultural activities that promote peace.



Pedro Ignacio Rubio Valenzuela, 15

Pedro is from Bogotá, Colombia and enjoys studying English and the social sciences. Pedro’s interests and hobbies are watching movies, debating, and environmental protection. Pedro believes that experiencing new cultures helps create connections globally and he thinks that being a Youth Ambassador helps facilitate that idea and that the program will help him improve his English and leadership skills. Pedro is very involved in his community through the Scout Movement, Fundación Sueños, Fundación Poca Lana, and Fundación Niños Invisibles. Pedro believes that work in his community starts with education and his goals include staying involved with the Scouts and helping educate children.



Rafael Jesús Rasse Villarroel, 16

Rafael is from Sucre, Venezuela and his favorite subjects are history and math. His hobbies include reading, playing the piano and visiting historical sites. Rafael’s biggest dreams are to be a professional, a recognized doctor, and to meet people from other cultures. He has volunteered to help clean beaches in his city and to teach English to low-income kids. The reason he wants to become a Youth Ambassador is because he believes that this experience will strengthen his personal and professional development as a leader and that it will be a unique and unforgettable learning experience.



Vanessa Alexandra Maldonado, 15

Vanessa lives in Mérida, Venezuela. In her community, she serves as a tutor for kids in kindergarten. Vanessa hopes to one day carry out a project in her community to recycle and clean her neighborhood. She considers herself a positive person that likes teamwork. The Youth Ambassadors Program represents a great opportunity for cultural exchange for her. She is excited about sharing her culture and customs during this experience.



María Victoria González Acevedo, 15

María is from Caracas, Venezuela. Her favorite subjects are psychology, English and history. Her hobbies include singing, playing harp, playing keyboard, dancing and reading. María is very passionate about music and currently plays in an orchestra and sings in a symphonic choir. She dreams of finishing her studies and pursuing a career in music. She also wants to enrich her knowledge to be able to help her country have better international relations and to go forward. María is excited about being a Youth Ambassador because the experience will provide her the opportunity to exchange ideas with people from other countries about their vision of the world and serving others.



Paola Isabella Delgado Parra, 17

Paola is from Yaracuy, Venezuela. Paola is passionate about mobilizing her peers and larger community to be advocates for their well-being and livelihoods. As a Youth Ambassador, she wants to learn more about project development and how to engage her peers to be active agents of change. She is also interested in studying languages and pursuing a career in international relations so that she can work with others to address the societal challenges that countries collectively share. Paola is excited about connecting with other youth leaders and learning from one another to improve her leadership and English skills while immersing herself in U.S. culture.



Mentor Profile

Tennessee Delegation

Carlos Gonzalo González Franco, 37

Carlos is from Maracaibo, there he works at Centro Venezolano Americano de Zulia as a Access Micro-scholarship Coordinator. Working there has granted him with the opportunity of working with several youngsters. He feels proud of thinking that his work helps shaping the future leaders of his country. Carlos is passionate about languages and teaching, he loves to learn about different cultures and considers himself a responsible, honest and passionate person. One of the coworkers of Carlos had the opportunity to be a Youth Ambassador Mentor in the past, after that, Carlos thinks, he hasn't been the same. Inspired by his growth as a human being, now Carlos looks forward to seize this opportunity and do so as well.



Youth Profiles

Hernán Danilo Moreno Ordúz, 16

Hernán is from San Andrés, Colombia where he enjoys studying English, chemistry, art, technology, and biology. Hernán has vast hobbies which include playing video games and basketball, watching movies, traveling, listening to music and reading. He has never traveled outside of Colombia and as a Youth Ambassador, is very excited to have new experiences in new cultures, share his culture, and use technology in the community. Hernán is very involved in his school where he uses his knowledge of technology to improve the education he and his peers receive. In the community and in his life, Hernán wants to have a career based around technology, language, and arts where he is a leader in the community and helps inspire other youth.



Jeimy Alejandra Ramos Junco, 16

Jeimy is from Soacha, Colombia where she enjoys studying English, biology, Spanish, chemistry, history, and philosophy and hopes to one day become a veterinarian. Jeimy's hobbies include reading, writing, playing basketball and with pets, riding horses and hanging out with her friends and family. Jeimy's world views are based around the similarities that we all share and, as a Youth Ambassador, she hopes to be able to show those similarities between individuals to create a tighter sense of unity in humanity. Jeimy is currently involved in an organization that deals with domestic violence and leads many workshops dedicated to helping the victims. Jeimy is excited for the opportunity to help educate her community as she believes that increased education can be the solution for many of the problems her community faces.





María Fernanda Martínez Agudelo, 16

María is from Quibdo-Choco, Colombia where she enjoys studying English, Spanish and sociology and wants to one day become a lawyer to be able to help people. For fun, she enjoys reading and learning about other cultures, playing volleyball. As a Youth Ambassador, María hopes that she can learn how to better help her community and meet other Youth Ambassadors to help solve problems around the world. She believes the program can improve her own leadership. María's involvement in her community is extensive as she is a member of "Futuro Colombia" and the foundation "Luna Verde". María believes that donating, fundraising, and creating awareness projects is a way to help solve problems her community faces until such a time where she is in a position to create a large scale difference.



Nidia del Carmen Hernández Meza, 16

Nidia is from Sabanagrande, Colombia where she enjoys studying English, chemistry and social studies and hopes to one day become an environmental engineer. For fun, Nidia enjoys dancing, writing, and learning about other cultures. Nidia believes that learning about other cultures can break stereotypes and discrimination and believes that as a Youth Ambassador, she can understand American culture and teach about Colombian culture. Nidia also believes that this experience will help her grow as a leader. In the community, Nidia participates in the social project "Los Caracoles" and takes part in health brigades. Nidia thinks she can help her community by becoming an environmental engineer and help create solutions to the problems the community has and increase the quality of life.



Luis Ángel Hurtado Rendón, 15

Luis is from Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. His favorite subjects are mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. Luis' hobbies include practicing English, swimming, going to the movies, visiting museums and cooking. Luis's long term dreams are to have a family, become a professional and work in big technological corporations or create his own one. At his school, Luis volunteers to tutor, clean up, and collect goods to donate to charity. He wants to encourage more people to volunteer and create forums and spaces in his school for multicultural enrichment. Luis understands Youth Ambassadorship as a unique opportunity; he wants to represent his country to show the best of it.



Víctor Samuel Pérez Díaz, 16

Víctor is from La Plata, Colombia where he enjoys studying physics, chemistry and English. He hopes to one day be remembered in the history books. Víctor is really into music. He sings and plays both guitar and electric guitar. Víctor also loves to do research. As a Youth Ambassador, Víctor hopes to increase his knowledge and be able to have the skills to further his own goals. In his community, Víctor is very involved with sports, folkloric events and he gives music performances. With his life, Víctor is really interested in being a leader in his community and helping show how music can help society.



Atenea Valentina Giménez Salazar, 16

Atenea lives in Nueva Esparta, Venezuela. During her free time, Atenea enjoys swimming, reading and playing volleyball. Throughout her experience as a volunteer in her community and school, she believes in the importance of encouraging others to be open-minded in their thinking and promoting a spirit of hard work in order to achieve one's dreams. Atenea's main interest in being a Youth Ambassador is to learn how to be a resourceful and creative leader in order to help improve the well-being of the people in her country. Her future goals are to travel and experience other cultures while promoting greater youth participation in addressing community issues.



Fabián Stevens Chaustre Sánchez, 17

Fabián is from Táchira, Venezuela where he is one of the highest achieving students at his school. In his school, he has been teaching math, chemistry, physics and English for the past 5 years. He is also currently working on a scientific project to help develop a self-sustaining crop growing system for his school. Fabián considers himself really disciplined when it comes to his studies. His main purpose is to become a commercial aircraft pilot one day. Upon applying to become a Youth Ambassador, the goals of the program stood out to him immediately because he closely identifies with and is passionate about the importance of exploring one's own leadership development as a means to give back to society. He hopes that this opportunity will teach him about volunteerism in other countries and will help him improve his English skills.



José Leonardo Sánchez Fernández, 17

José is from Mérida, he has worked to fix his school laboratory helping to benefit over 300 students. He wishes to address the trash problem that affects his community by designing a waste recycling project. José considers himself a person with many virtues and he is also someone who wants to help others even if it is not from a high-profile position. His main interest about being part of the Youth Ambassadors Program is the fact that he will learn and be able to contribute new ideas to help preserve his community and school.



Lousianna Saraí Fernández Acosta, 17

Lousianna is from Maracay, Venezuela. Her favorite subjects are physics, geography, math and English. Her hobbies include reading, singing, swimming and playing volleyball. She dreams of traveling the world, learning new disciplines, cultures and helping Venezuela develop. Lousianna is a part of a religious youth group and she collaborates with foundations that provide care for stray animals. She also tutors her classmates in different subjects. Lousianna wants to lead many projects to help her community, such as public illumination development projects, motivational murals and promoting different commuting alternatives. Lousianna hopes that as a Youth Ambassadors she will be able to promote large scale changes and network with other youth leaders.