



# Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program High School Program

A program sponsored and funded by the U.S. Embassy  
Baghdad, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational  
and Cultural Affairs, Youth Programs Division

Administered by World Learning and Meridian International

## Letter of Recommendation

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### Instructions for the Applicant:

Give this form to a teacher and/or an adult leader and ask him or her to fill it out completely by January 2, 2011. ***Please write your application registration ID number on all letter of recommendation forms.*** You may submit this form online with your application or you or your reference can email the signed and completed form to [iylephighschool@gmail.com](mailto:iylephighschool@gmail.com). Please use your application registration ID number in the email subject line to ensure that your letter of recommendation is matched to your application. Any reference received without an ID number will not be considered. **(Example Subject Line: "Mohammed Abdullah Yousef, 1234567, letter of recommendation")** In the blanks below, fill in and sign your name.

## **Information about the Program for Teacher/Adult Reference:**

### **Program Introduction:**

The Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program is a four week youth leadership exchange based in the U.S. for Iraqi and American teenagers ages 15-18 and several Iraqi adults. The program aims to develop a cadre of young adults in Iraq and the United States who have a strong sense of civic responsibility, a commitment to community development, an awareness of current & global issues, strong interpersonal leadership skills, willingness to foster relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups in Iraq, and to promote mutual understanding, respect and collaboration between the United States and Iraq. Participants will be required to implement follow-on activities upon their return home that will help the participants stay in touch with each other and reflect on their experiences and integrate that learning into their day-to-day lives at home. An important goal of the program is that the student leaders, now empowered, will train other student leaders through student led community oriented service projects.

The goals of the program are:

- 1) enable the participants to understand civic participation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy;
- 2) develop leadership skills among high school students and adult leaders appropriate to their needs;
- 3) foster understanding and build relationships across ethnic, religious, and national groups; and
- 4) promote mutual understanding between the people of Iraq and the U.S.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Student applicants must....

- be at least 15 years old and not more than 18 years old at the time of the exchange;
- have a high school graduation year of 2011 or later;
- have permission from either a parent or legal guardian to participate in the four-week camp program, approximately to begin in July of 2011; and
- Citizenship and current residency in Iraq (applicants with dual U.S. citizenship will not be considered.).

### **What are the criteria for selection?**

\*\*Students will be evaluated on the following characteristics:

- a demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and civic activities;
- ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and tolerate the opinions of others;
- leadership potential;
- be proficient in English;
- good social and communication skills;
- good academic performance;
- an energetic, positive attitude; and
- ability to implement projects that benefit the applicant's school and/or community.

Applicant name (please print)

Applicant registration ID number

Applicant signature

Date

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**Instructions for Teacher/Adult Reference:**

Our program features a special kind of educational experience abroad. This applicant will be involved in a four-week exchange program in U.S. with close contact with young people and adults in a challenging academic environment that will require cross-cultural adjustment and an extended period of living as a member of a host family. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Please be very honest in your assessment of the applicant to help us to determine whether the applicant is ready for this kind of program. Please indicate, by checking the appropriate spaces, your estimate of the applicant's characteristics. If you wish to add comments, please do so on another sheet of paper. **Your answers will remain confidential.**

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
1. Consideration for and interest in others and their views	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Common sense and good judgment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Leadership potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Ability to take direction cheerfully	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Sense of responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Ability to adjust to and cope with new situations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Intellectual curiosity and imagination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ability to express himself or herself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Participation in community and extracurricular activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Ability to follow through with projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Sense of humor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Comments:**

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**Comments continue:**

**For Teacher Reference (continued)**

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant  
Registration ID  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

What do you see as the strengths of this student?

How well will the applicant be able to adapt to living with a host family from a different culture?

How well will the applicant be able to work with others in the travel group to resolve problems?

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Please comment on the applicant's overall suitability for the program, including leadership and interpersonal skills.

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

\_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
year

year

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

city

postal code

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit this reference form to the applicant or email the completed with the applicant's registration ID number in the email subject line (Example Subject Line: "Mohammed Abdullah Yousef, 1234567, Letter of recommendation") item to [iylephighschool@gmail.com](mailto:iylephighschool@gmail.com)**

**Thank you**

**Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program High School 2011  
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