



Smithsonian Latino Center

2018 YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM Program Description

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Young Ambassadors Program (YAP) is a national program for graduating high school seniors aimed at fostering the next generation of Latino leaders in the arts, sciences, and humanities via the Smithsonian Institution and its resources. YAP is a college preparatory and leadership program encouraging participants to explore various academic and career opportunities through the lens of the Latino experience. For the past eleven years, this program has received major and continued support from Ford Motor Company Fund.

Students with an interest in and commitment to the arts, sciences, and humanities as it pertains to Latino communities and cultures are selected to travel to Washington, D.C. for a week-long seminar at the Smithsonian. This enrichment opportunity is a leadership development and skill-building training that exposes youth to a wide array of academic disciplines promoting higher education and encouraging the exploration and understanding of the Latino identity. The seminar, known as Washington Week, includes visits to the Smithsonian’s Latino collections and one-on-one interaction with renowned experts from various fields as well as museum professionals. Following the training seminar, students participate in a four-week interdisciplinary internship in museums and other cultural institutions in 17 cities across the United States and Puerto Rico, including Smithsonian-affiliated organizations. This hands-on component allows students to gain transferable knowledge and apply the skills acquired during the training seminar to their internship assignments.

2018 INTERNSHIP REGIONS

Arizona, Phoenix

Arizona Science Center

California, Fresno (Central Valley)

Arte Américas

California, Los Angeles/Long Beach

California Science Center

Museum of Latin American Art

California, San Jose (Bay Area)

Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose (TBC)

Colorado, Denver

History Colorado

Florida, Miami

HistoryMiami

Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science

Georgia, Atlanta

Atlanta History Center

Illinois, Chicago

Adler Planetarium

National Museum of Mexican Art

Michigan, Detroit

Detroit Institute of Arts (TBC)

New Mexico, Albuquerque

Explora

New York, New York

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

Puerto Rico, San Juan

Museo de Historia, Antropología y Arte

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus

Texas, Dallas/Fort Worth

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

Texas, Houston

Children’s Museum of Houston

Talento Bilingüe de Houston

Texas, San Antonio

San Antonio Museum of Art

The Witte Museum

Washington, D.C.

National Zoological Park (TBC)



FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

EXPENSES AND PROGRAM STIPEND

Participation in the Young Ambassadors Program includes meals and accommodations for the duration of the one-week training seminar, round-trip travel costs to Washington, D.C. and a program stipend. **Students selected are responsible for all expenses during the four-week internship, including transportation, accommodations, and meals.** Upon completion of the five-week program, participants will receive \$2,000 to contribute to their higher education. Students that do not complete the training seminar and four-week internship will not receive the program stipend.

ELIGIBILITY

Admission is competitive. To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Be a high school senior graduating in 2018
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States with a valid Social Security Number at the time of application
- Have a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be fluent in English
- Be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking program at an accredited college or university (community college is eligible; enrollment will be verified for the fall 2018)
- Commit to participate in the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution and complete a four-week paid summer internship

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Up to 24 participants are selected through a competitive process, guided by a selection committee comprised of museum and education professionals. The selection committee evaluates all application materials and submissions based on the following criteria:

1. Excellence in the:
 - a. **Arts** (e.g., film, visual, performing, design);
 - b. **Sciences** (e.g., natural, biological, chemical, planetary); or
 - c. **Humanities** (e.g., language, literature, social sciences, business).
2. Academic record
3. Leadership experience
4. Commitment to education
5. Service learning and engagement with the Latino community

For more information and to apply, please visit the Smithsonian Latino Center online at <http://latino.si.edu/Education/YAP> or email SLCEducation@si.edu.