



Smithsonian Latino Center

2018 YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM Frequently Asked Questions

General Application Questions:

Who may apply to the program?

The program is geared towards graduating high school seniors. Applicants should receive their high school diploma in the spring of 2018 to be considered. All applicants should be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents at the time of application. For further criteria, please read the Applicant Guide.

When must all application materials be received?

All application materials must be received by the deadline (April 9th, 2018), including the online application and all supporting materials. Please contact the Smithsonian Latino Center with any questions or concerns (contact and mailing information is located in the Applicant Guide).

What is the process for submitting Letters of Recommendation to the program?

Each application must include one letter of recommendation. Please be sure that you and your recommender follow the instructions located in the Applicant Guide. There are two ways to properly submit a letter of recommendation. The applicant may request a letter of recommendation from a recommender directly from the SOLAA system (online application) or the recommender may submit a letter of recommendation to SLCEducation@si.edu.

What is considered a complete application?

A complete application must contain the submitted online application with all statements and essays uploaded as well as a short video, all transcript information uploaded, including the GPA conversion if not on a four point scale system, and one uploaded or emailed letter of recommendation. Please be sure not to submit your online application until all these materials have been included.

How will I be notified of my application status?

All applicants will be notified of their application status in May 2018. Please check your application status via your SOLAA account. Additionally, if you have been selected as a program participant, you will receive the Young Ambassadors Program Acceptance Packet via mail.

General Program Questions:

What is the history of the Young Ambassadors Program?

Since 2006, we have fostered the creative drive of high school seniors by providing them leadership experiences in the arts, sciences and humanities. This flagship program has successfully served over 240 students and has tracked their progress through college and into their early professional careers. In 2017, we partnered with 22 cultural and science centers from New York to California to offer Young Ambassador Internships. For the past eleven years, this program has received major and continued support from Ford Motor Company Fund.



What does the Smithsonian Latino Center cover?

The Smithsonian Latino Center covers round-trip airfare to Washington, D.C., housing, and meals during the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian Latino Center will also provide a \$2,000 program stipend upon the completion of the one-week training seminar and the four-week internship.

What is the applicants' financial responsibility?

It is the applicants' responsibility to identify and cover housing, transportation, and meals for the duration of the four-week internship component. The Smithsonian Latino Center encourages applicants to select internship sites in their local regions or in regions where applicants may be able to stay with family or friends in the area. Please contact the Smithsonian Latino Center with any questions or concerns (contact information is located in the Applicant Guide).

What is the duration of the program?

The applicant must be available to participate in all five-weeks of the program as outlined in the Applicant Guide.

What is the student experience during the five-week program?

This program is a leadership and professional development experience. During the Washington Week segment, participants should expect intense learning sessions including conversations with professionals in the field, as well as group work and project development. During the Internship segment, participants should expect hands-on, real-life working experiences including research, data management, and working with general public as well as children. Participants should be comfortable working with children and the general visiting public. Hands-on work is required for both segments of the Young Ambassadors Program.

General Internship Experience Questions:

What is the work schedule during the internship experience?

The internship experience will require the applicant to commit to a full-time schedule for the four-week period during the month of July. Occasionally, depending on the organization, some weekend work will be required in substitution of a Monday-Friday work week. Specific details will be included in the internship description distributed to each participant in the Young Ambassadors Program Acceptance Packet.

What does the internship experience entail?

Internship experiences include: assisting with special summer programming at museums, assisting in the development of education content for families and/or students, working with child, teen, and/or youth development programs, working with new media and social media education applications, assisting in local/regional outreach efforts, and working with various departments within the museums or cultural institutions. Hands-on work is required.

What is the housing and transportation situation during the internship experience?

The Smithsonian Latino Center does not arrange for housing and transportation during this portion of the program. Participants are responsible for securing and paying for housing and transportation during this time period. The Smithsonian Latino Center encourages applicants to select internship sites in their local regions or in regions where applicants may be able to stay with family or friends in the area. Please contact the Smithsonian Latino Center with any questions or concerns (contact information is located in the Applicant Guide).