

2023 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 2023 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. For all other status or visa questions, please contact NMALYAP@si.edu.

When must all application materials be received?

All application materials must be received by the deadline (March 24, 2023), including the online application and all supporting materials. Please contact the National Museum of the American Latino 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 NMALYAP@si.edu.

What is considered a complete application?

A complete submitted application must contain:

- All (3) essay statements uploaded as well as a picture and short video
- All transcript information uploaded, including the GPA conversion if not on a four point scale system
- 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 late April 2023. 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 e-mail.

General Program Questions:

What is the history of the Young Ambassadors Program?

Since 2006, the Smithsonian has 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 290 students and has tracked their progress through college and into their early professional careers. In 2022, we partnered with 20 cultural and science centers from New York to California to offer Young Ambassador Internships. For the past fourteen years, this program has received major and continued support from Ford Motor Company Fund.



What does the National Museum of the American Latino cover?

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino covers round-trip airfare to Washington, D.C., housing, and meals during the one-week training seminar at the Smithsonian Institution. The museum will also provide a \$2,350 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 National Museum of the American Latino 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 museum 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 (practicing social distancing and COVID-19 protocols of the host museum, as necessary). 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. COVID protocols of each internship site will be distributed with the acceptance packet.

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

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino 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 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 museum with any questions or concerns (contact information is located in the Applicant Guide).

COVID-19 Information:

The Smithsonian is, and will continue to be, a mask-friendly institution and is committed to fostering an inclusive, safe, and supportive workplace.

If selected, you may be requested to submit documentation of proof of vaccination during onboarding by your internship site. The Smithsonian Institution will provide additional information regarding what information or documentation will be needed and the safety measures that you must follow during your internship.