



2025 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 2025 to be considered. All applicants should be authorized to work in the United States. YAP is equally open to students of all races and ethnicities, without preference or restriction based on race or ethnicity. Applicants need not identify as Latino or Hispanic to apply. For further criteria, please read the Applicant Guide. For all other questions, please contact NMALYAP@si.edu.

When must all application materials be received?

All application materials must be received by the deadline (April 11, 2025), 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 mid-May 2025. 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 with leadership experiences in the arts, sciences and humanities. This flagship program has successfully served over 330 students and has tracked their progress through college and into their early professional careers. In 2025, we partnered with 20 cultural and science centers across the United States to offer community practicum experiences. For the past sixteen years, this program has received major and continued support from Ford Philanthropy.

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 community practicum experience.

What is the applicant's financial responsibility?

It is the applicant's responsibility to identify and cover housing, transportation, and meals for the duration of the four-week practicum component. The National Museum of the American Latino encourages applicants to select practicum 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 community practicum segment, participants should expect hands-on, real-life working experiences including research, data management, and working with the 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 Community Practicum Experience Questions:

What is the work schedule during the practicum experience?

The community practicum 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 community practicum description distributed to each participant in the Young Ambassadors Program Acceptance Packet.

What does the community practicum experience entail?

Practicum 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 community practicum 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 practicum 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).