



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Youth Diplomats program! We look forward to learning about what inspires, motivates, and moves you to be a global citizen! Here is some general information to help you complete your application.

Eligibility

Gulf Coast Diplomacy invites students who will be high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors for the 2024-2025 academic year to apply for a place in the Youth Diplomats program. We accept applications from home-schooled students as well as from students attending public, private, and charter high schools. Twenty-four students from Northwest Florida will be invited to participate. **Applications are due May 31, 2024.**

Cost

There is no fee to apply.

Tuition for June 2024 – April 2025 is \$120. Full scholarships are available & students unable to pay tuition are encouraged to apply for a needs-based waiver. Tuition payments for students accepted into the program are due by **June 14, 2024.**

Benefits

Youth Diplomats develop 21st century skills including critical thinking, collaboration, and media literacy while strengthening their knowledge of global affairs. In the process, they discover college and career options, and network with global experts. Youth Diplomats also participate in service projects international visitors.

Students can also earn digital credentials aligned with the Open Badges standard and have access to an array of scholarships promoting international exchange and language proficiency. Participation in Youth Diplomats strengthens college applications as it illustrates curiosity and a commitment to intercultural communication.

Schedule

Youth Diplomats meet one Saturday a month (10:30 AM to 1:30 PM) from Aug 2024 – April 2025. In June and July, the program includes international youth virtually (June) and in person (July).

The anticipated schedule is June 18-21 (online with Camp Global from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM), July 26-August 7 (8 AM - 5 PM during the weekdays with the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program), August 28, September 28, October 26, November 16, December 14, January 25, February 8, March 29, and April 19.

The Saturday meetings are reserved for learning opportunities categorized by workshops, volunteering, and collaborations to include interaction, whenever possible, with international exchange participants, both students and professionals. Youth Diplomats also have access to speeches, lectures, and networking events with visiting academics, government officials, and other leaders from around the globe.

Norms & Expectations

Youth Diplomats is student-led & the Leadership Committee established the following guidelines.

Youth Diplomats will:

- Dress for success;
- Show respect for others by leaving their cell phones in their bags unless taking approved photographs for social media or blog posts;
- Always confirm with staff, prior to taking photos or screenshots, whether or not our international visitors have given media consent;
- Give timely RSVPs if unable to attend;
- Attend 7 of 9 regular meetings one Saturday per month, June 2024—April 2025;
- Attend either the June Camp Global sessions or the July Youth Ambassadors France session (Attendance at both is encouraged.);
- Interact with visiting/online youth exchange groups;
- Take the initiative in contacting the office of Leadership Committee with questions or concerns;
- Come to sessions prepared to engage using the materials provided;
- Produce one blog post or social media post & be willing to help promote the program using #YouthDiplomats & #IAmDiplomacy;
- Share the Youth Diplomats application with others when it opens in the spring;
- And in discussions will:
 - Be respectful;
 - Not interrupt;
 - Ask the *why*;
 - Analyze all sides; and
 - Share speaking time.

Mission of Gulf Coast Diplomacy

Gulf Coast Diplomacy is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization facilitating and strengthening connection, collaboration, and fellowship between the people of the Gulf Coast and the global community.

Instructions

Please submit this completed application to Jena Melançon, Gulf Coast Diplomacy founder & executive director, by **May 31, 2024, at 11:59 PM CDT as a PDF** via email: jena@gulfcoastdiplomacy.org.

Current Youth Diplomats who attended at least seven of the 2023/24 meetings need to complete only **Parts I, IV, and V** of the application **on or before May 31, 2024**, with tuition due by June 14, 2024.

Application checklist:

_____ Application Form

_____ Answers to Three Questions

_____ Student/ Parent/Guardian Signatures

APPLICATION FORM

Please print clearly or type.

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME _____

AGE _____ GRADE _____ SCHOOL _____

Grade point average _____

Expected month & year of graduation _____

HOME ADDRESS (street) _____

(city & zip code) _____

EMAIL – Do not use your school email, as you may not receive notification of acceptance to the program.

PHONE NUMBER _____ Circle the best way to contact you: text / phone / email

T-Shirt Size _____

- I plan to attend Camp Global in June. (Circle one) YES NO
- I plan to apply for the fully funded IYLEP exchange taking place in Massachusetts, Pensacola, and Washington, DC (Circle one) YES NO
- I plan to apply for the IYLEP exchange experience taking place in Pensacola (Circle one) YES NO
- I would like my family to be considered as a possible host for the IYLEP program in July and August (Circle one) YES NO

II. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did you hear about the Youth Diplomats Program?

2. Our program will run from June 2024 to April 2025. Are you willing to commit to one Saturday a month from August to April and to attending either the June or July sessions?

3. Please list activities, sports, or clubs you are involved in at school.

4. Please list activities, sports, or clubs you are involved in outside of school.

5. What honors have you won either in or outside of school? Are you a dual-enrollment student? Have you or are you taking any AP or honors classes? Are you an I.B. student?

6. Do you have a job, either unpaid or volunteer? If so, what are your responsibilities?

7. Have you had any experiences with other cultures? If so, please share.
Note: You do not have to travel abroad to be exposed to other cultures.

8. What is a SECRET TALENT you possess? (We promise not to tell!)

9. Is there anything else about yourself you would like us to know?

III. Please choose three of the four prompts below to answer, using the space provided. Make sure to note which prompt you are answering by writing its number inside the small box within each rectangle.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Youth Diplomats Program? What could you contribute to the program that no one else can?
2. Describe a global issue that you care about – or would like to learn about – and why?
3. What does the world need more of? Less of? How can you and other young people make it happen? How are you already making it happen? *Please think beyond the easy answers of the world needing more love and understanding and less hate.*
4. Where in the world would you like to get lost? What could you learn about the place, the people, and yourself? How would you use your experience to help others?

Prompt #

Prompt #

Prompt #

IV. PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PARENT OR GUARDIAN 1

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ Circle the best way to contact you: text / phone / email

PARENT OR GUARDIAN 2

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ Circle the best way to contact you: text / phone / email

V. SIGNATURES OF STUDENT / PARENT / GUARDIAN

I agree that all of the information in this application is true. I agree if selected, I will participate to the best of my abilities in the Youth Diplomats activities and requirements as outlined above.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

STUDENT NAME (printed) _____

- I agree that all of the information in this application is true. I give permission for my student to participate and will support him/her in meeting the program requirements as outlined above.

- I would like to be considered for a need-based scholarship for my student's \$120 annual tuition.

- FOR PARENTS of those under 18: Gulf Coast Diplomacy uses photography and video to document meetings and events. These images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. By initialing here, you understand no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to you by reason of such use and you agree that Gulf Coast Diplomacy has your permission to use your or your child's photograph publicly.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Thank you for applying to the Youth Diplomats!