



YOUTH DIPLOMATS PROGRAM

Engaging the Next Generation of Community Leaders

Gulf Coast Diplomacy challenges you to think about a world MUCH BIGGER than your own.

Youth Diplomats is an 11-month experiential learning program that equips teens in Northwest Florida to become **better citizens**, more active in their **community**, and more knowledgeable about how communication, cooperation, and leadership shape a safer and **more prosperous future**.

We meet once a month to explore topics in **diplomacy, leadership, and careers**, while building **professional development** and **communication skills**.

You'll learn about the **people, culture, and issues** of various countries through meetings with exchange students and professionals participating in U.S. Department of State and U.S. Congressional exchanges.

You'll also discover **college and career options, scholarships**, and network with **experts**. Up to 32 students will be invited to join.

We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor. - Declaration of Independence, 1776

We are a local, nonpartisan nonprofit promoting citizen diplomacy in NW Florida by hosting federally funded international exchange programs for experts and youth.



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- 8th-11th graders who are:
- Graduating in 2027 or later
 - Curious about the world and seeking workforce development skills



COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

You'll receive service hours when engaging with international visitors and participating in service activities with nonprofits.



MORE INFO

www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org
APPLY BY May 15, 2026!
There is no fee to apply.

Questions?
Contact Eden Davenport:
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850.417.1326

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— *Engaging the Next Generation of Community Leaders* —

Anticipated Schedule for June 2026 - April 2027

Camp Global: June 23 - 26, 10 - 11:30 AM (via Zoom)

Faces of Service Leadership
Days: July 2026

Regular Meetings
Saturdays, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
in downtown Pensacola

August 2026 through April 2027

Topics for June through October will be determined by the ninth cohort of Youth Diplomats at the April 2026 session.

Topics for November through April will be determined by the tenth cohort at the October 2026 session.

All meetings are in person unless noted otherwise.

**APPLY TODAY & EXPLORE
TOMORROW**

The journey begins June 2026.



@gulfcoastdiplomacy

Are you curious about international affairs? Do you like learning about different cultures? Apply to be a Gulf Coast Diplomacy Youth Diplomat!

What's the commitment?

- Attend 7 of 9 regular sessions one Saturday per month, Aug 2026-April 2027 and either Camp Global in June or the **Faces of Service** leadership days in July. Attending either of the two summer sessions counts as a make-up for a missed regular meeting and Youth Diplomats are encouraged to attend both;
- Produce one blog post or social media post; and
- Read the materials provided at the end of each session to be ready to engage at the next month's session.

What are the benefits?

Youth Diplomats:

- Develop important skills including critical thinking, collaboration and leadership development;
- Learn more about community through interacting with local leaders;
- Strengthen their knowledge of international affairs;
- Earn community service hours alongside international exchange participants;
- Earn digital credentials aligned with the Open Badges standard; and
- Have access to an array of scholarships promoting international exchange and language proficiency.

How much does it cost?

- Tuition for the year is \$120. *This program is made possible by volunteers and local donors and does not receive federal funding.*
- Need-based tuition waivers are available.

Sample Activities

Past Youth Diplomats:

- Met with an elected official to hear why he ran for office;
- Volunteered at Manna Food Bank;
- Created student resumes and polished interview skills;
- Explored the Peace Corps and the U.S. Foreign Service;
- Participated in diplomatic simulations;
- Investigated the role of artificial intelligence in international affairs;
- Engaged in activities with teens from Brazil and France;
- Met with mayors from Moldova to discuss local government; and
- Built friendships across our region and the world.

INFORMATION & APPLICATION: WWW.GULFCOASTDIPLOMACY.ORG