



**BOLDLEADERS**

*a grassroots, Colorado based non-profit whose purpose is to cause Bold Leaders*

[www.boldleaders.org](http://www.boldleaders.org)



Apply by:  
01.09.12

## American Youth Leadership Program with Kenya 2012



**The U.S. State Department continues funding of this amazing program and we're looking for applicants!**

*High school students and teachers from the Colorado front range, from Colorado Springs to Boulder are invited to apply for participation in this BoldLeaders project.*

This three week exchange with Kenya will offer 30 students and three teachers/community leaders the opportunity to explore the principles of leadership, civic education and community activism by exploring the social, political and economic issues of food security in Kenya, Africa. Activities will start in the spring of 2012 and include travel to Kenya for three weeks from June 21 - July 19, 2012. This exchange program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and will bring participants through a life changing experience with gains in cultural awareness and the dramatic issues of food security around the world.



**The program will be intensive, academic, and highly interactive. The program sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.**



**We become adapted to the  
lack of use of our basic  
resources and they respond  
by becoming unfamiliar to us.**

**-Alexis Carrel**

## **Project Overview**

**The program will begin in the spring of 2012** with a three-day Colorado based orientation where participants will meet each other, align on project goals and outcomes, and develop common habits of participation and teamwork.

The Kenya travel portion of the project will take place from June 21st to July 19th, 2012. During the time in Kenya, participants will take part in foundational workshops, trainings and discussions, travel to different locations throughout Kenya, and live with a local host family.

Hosted by Furukombe Initiatives, a leading education consulting company in Nairobi, the time spent in Kenya includes an exciting raft trip near Mt. Kenya, service projects in Nairobi and much more. Participants will be together for the first five days before splitting into three different groups. Each of these sub-groups will travel to a different regional area in Kenya: Kisumu, Mombasa, or Mt. Kenya regions. Working with local youth, non-profits and NGO's, the groups will experience a cultural immersion unique to the different areas. Local service work and mutual learning with African peers will enliven and enrich the whole experience.

Gathering back together in Nairobi toward the end of the exchange, the three groups will have an opportunity to share their different experiences, learnings and future project plans.

Cross-cultural understanding will be a significant focus of the project, as our time in Kenya will be supported by young people who live in the area and have similar interests and passions. Participants will take part in community service projects, rich dialogue sessions, interactive workshops, and outdoor adventure. Through exposure to community organizations, government leaders, and grass roots activists in each location, the students and teachers/community leaders will better understand leadership, civic participation, and the critical issues of food security.

Adults and students will travel together throughout the exchange, but some activities will be designed just for youth and others just for adults. In addition to joining the students for many of their activities, teachers/community leaders will have some separate sessions with Kenyan educators and trainers. Designed as a cross-cultural opportunity, these gatherings will be a chance to share ideas on topics such as teaching methodologies, supporting youth initiatives, diversity appreciation, and skills they will need to support student leadership.

We expect that participants will return home with the knowledge, skills, new ideas, and enthusiasm to create positive change in their schools and communities through small achievable action projects. The teacher participants will work with students from their area and support their follow-on projects in tandem with BoldLeaders.

## Who is eligible to apply?



### How much does it cost?

This program is largely funded by the US State Department, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. BoldLeaders will ask participants to raise at least \$300 towards the program costs, due before departure to Kenya, however this participant contribution should not limit any application to the program. If this contribution is a burden, please contact us directly.

The United States Government, in conjunction with BoldLeaders, will pay for flights, transportation (to and from the different program sites), orientations, program and administrative fees, site visits and seminars, lodging and meals, some cultural activities, educational materials, accident and sickness insurance, and a modest amount of pocket money. Participants will stay with volunteer host families and in conference centers.

Participants will need to pay for their own immunization costs (generally \$100-\$300), although supplemental funding for this is available on an as-needed basis. Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (copying, mailing, photographs, etc.), any associated passport costs, and spending money for souvenirs and other items.

#### Student applicants must.....

- be at least 15 years old and not older than 17 years old by June 30, 2012
- have at least one semester of high school remaining upon returning from Kenya
- have permission from parents/guardians to participate in the entire program, including pre and post-exchange workshops, time and date TBA
- submit a complete application, including letters of recommendation no later than January 9, 2012
- participate in a selection interview
- Upon acceptance, successful applicants will be asked to complete a medical information and history form, a questionnaire, provide a photograph, and agree to program conditions of participation

#### Adult applicants must .....

- be active in working with youth in either a high school or community setting or be active in a food security related program
- be willing and available to participate in the entire program, including pre and post-exchange workshops, time and date TBA
- be willing and able to meet periodically with selected students from their area, during the summer of 2012 and academic year 2012-2013 to support their follow-on work
- submit a complete application, including letters of recommendation no later than January 9, 2012
- participate in a selection interview
- Upon acceptance, successful applicants will be asked to complete a medical information and history form, a questionnaire, provide a photograph, and agree to program conditions of participation

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE US CITIZENS AND MUST HAVE A VALID US PASSPORT ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2012

## **What are the criteria for selection?**

Students will be evaluated on the following characteristics:

- a demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and civic activities
- ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and include the opinions of others
- leadership potential
- social and communication skills
- academic performance
- general attitude and interest in the world around him or her
- ability to implement projects that benefit the applicant's school and community
- ability to be active and successful exchange participants
- \* While not a criteria for selection, previous work or involvement in food security-related areas should be noted

Adult applicants will be evaluated on the following factors:

- maturity and open-mindedness
- a demonstrated interest in and commitment to service in their local regions
- demonstrated history of supporting youth activities
- strong record in teaching and/or youth programs
- demonstrated leadership ability
- ability to work cooperatively with diverse groups of students and peers and include the opinions of others
- commitment to working with youth after the project to help them implement projects
- \* While not a criteria for selection, previous work or involvement in food security-related areas should be noted

**An in-person interview will be used as part of the selection process for students and adults.**

**The selection committee will seek a diverse group of successful applicants**



## **How do I apply?**

- Complete an application form available online at [www.boldleaders.org](http://www.boldleaders.org) or by request to CORINNE at [corinne.domahidy@boldleaders.org](mailto:corinne.domahidy@boldleaders.org)
- Submit two letters of recommendation along with the application.
  - Students: at least one from a teacher, coach or supervisor and another from a peer
  - Adults: one from a colleague and one from a supervisor
- All applications and letters of recommendation are due no later than January 9, 2012

BoldLeaders will contact applicants selected for interviews based on the criteria above. The list of finalists and alternates will be announced by late February, 2012.

### **And after that....?**

- The selected participants will be receiving orientation materials prior to the project to help prepare them for the trip
- A three-day orientation and training session with the students and adults will be held in Denver prior to the trip in early spring 2012

*Thank you for your interest in the program and good luck with your applications!*