



On-Demand Youth Leadership Program: Cyprus - Digital Literacy

Unique Opportunity for High School Students and Educators from Cyprus

By attending this program you can:

- become a strong leader who can make a difference in your community and country
- use leadership skills to identify and seek solutions to pressing issues in your community
- learn techniques to promote youth leadership and digital literacy
- design and deliver community-based projects
- meet and collaborate with American and Cypriot peers

The On-Demand Youth Leadership Program (ODYLP): Cyprus - Digital Literacy is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), administered by [Legacy International](#), that brings together a group of 18 (9 Greek Cypriot and 9 Turkish Cypriot) youth participants (ages 15-18) and two (2) (a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot) adult mentors (ages 25 and older) from **Cyprus** for a three-week, U.S.-based exchange focused on digital literacy and youth leadership.

Program Details:

Part 1:

Three-week exchange in the USA from August 11-31, 2024 (*dates subject to adjustment.*) The program consists of 15 days in a U.S. host city, followed by five days in Washington D.C.

- **Days 1-2:** Arrive in the United States with a program orientation in host community.
- **Days 3-15:** Explore the host community and meet with organizations that promote youth leadership, address social justice issues, and focus on digital literacy in bi-communal collaborations; talk to leaders in programs addressing environmental concerns, poverty, food insecurity and youth workforce readiness and other issues; and be a guest of a U.S. host family to immerse yourself in American culture and enjoy their hospitality.
- **Day 15-20:** Travel to Washington D.C., the capital of the United States. Visit the U.S. Department of State, and engage in cultural and recreational activities.



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Part 2:

Community-Based Project - Program Requirement (September to November): Following the U.S. experience, apply your skills to design and deliver a community-based project. (e.g., a peer education workshop or service project).

How to Apply:

Eighteen (18) students and two (2) adult educators from Cyprus will be competitively selected to participate.

Is there a cost? There is **NO** application fee. The United States Government will pay for all travel to and from the United States, and all program-related costs for selected participants.

Applications will be accepted between March 27, 2024 to April 25, 2024 at noon Eastern Daylight Time (19:00 Cyprus Time). Semifinalists will be selected for interviews (late May/early June) and final notifications made in late June 2024.

To apply go to: <https://legacyintl.org/odylp-digital-literacy-cyprus/>
Questions: email ylpapplication@legacyintl.org



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Selection Criteria

Youth Eligibility Requirements

All eligible applicants must:

- Be between 15 and 18 years old by March 1, 2024
- Have at least one semester left at his/her current school upon return home;
- Be a citizen of Cyprus;
 - Must be able to fly in and out of Larnaca airport
 - Be living in Cyprus at the time of the exchange and during the follow-on component;
- Be proficient in English;
- Demonstrate interest in youth leadership development and digital literacy;
- Demonstrate initiative, leadership, strong communication skills, and an energetic, positive attitude;
- Have the ability to work cooperatively in a team and be open to various opinions and perspectives;
- Commit to the follow-on application of community-based project (e.g., peer education workshop or service project); and
- Have permission from parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in the program.

Preference will be given to individuals who:

- Have not previously traveled to the United States; or
- Have not participated in any in-person, ECA-funded program in the United States within the past three years or accepted a scholarship for an upcoming U.S. Government-funded exchange program.
- Please note: Individuals with dual U.S. citizenship and family members of U.S. Embassy or Consulate staff, or U.S. Department of State employees are not eligible for this program.

Adult Mentor – Program Experience and Role

- The adult mentors will gain new skills in youth leadership development and community engagement as they travel to the United States with the group and help facilitate learning.
- They will guide young leaders through a six-month experience (June-November) starting with pre-program orientation and culminating in the implementation of community-based projects.
- The selected candidate will be trained to facilitate and assist youth as they complete community-based projects, and they will assist with all logistical arrangements in the country to ensure selected students complete paperwork and all necessary items to be ready to participate.
- During the community-based project phase, the adult educator will mentor specific individual and student pairings as well as develop projects and lesson plans for their colleagues or youth groups. They will help students participate in monthly virtual check-ins and coaching sessions with Legacy team.

Adult Selection Criteria:

- Be 25 years or older as of March 1, 2024;
- Be a citizen of Cyprus;
 - Must be able to fly in and out of Larnaca airport



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- Be living in Cyprus at the time of the exchange and during the follow-on component;
- Have proficiency in English;
- Have experience teaching or working with teenage youth around the themes of leadership and/or digital literacy;
- Have demonstrated strong leadership skills;
- Have a sincere interest in bi-communal collaboration and digital literacy initiatives; and
- Be willing to offer instructional support, coordinate logistics and commit to the continued mentorship of youth participants through the community project phase.

Preference will be given to individuals who:

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