



Application

2012

Student Name

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Program Description

The Youth Cultural Opportunity is a program for teenagers from Belarus to spend 4 weeks in the U.S. living with a U.S. host family, participating in community service activities, and experiencing life in a U.S. community. Participants will take part in required daily organized activities and will have the opportunity to learn about American culture and share Belarusian culture with Americans. At the end of the host community program, participants will travel to Washington, DC for a 5-day cultural workshop. They will depart for the United States in late June 2012 and return to Belarus in late July 2012.

Instructions for Applicants

Eligibility Requirements

To apply for the program, students must certify that they meet the eligibility requirements outlined below. If the student passes to the next level of the competition, s/he must provide documentation of eligibility.

I certify that (check all that apply):

- I am currently enrolled in 9th grade or 10th grade;
- I was born on or after January 1, 1996, and on or before June 1, 1997;
- I am currently enrolled in a secondary school in Belarus
- I have an academic standing of "good" or better;
- I have previously studied English, and speak and read English; and
- I am a citizen of Belarus and am eligible to receive a Belarusian passport.

How to Apply for the Youth Cultural Opportunity

Applicants must:

- Complete the application form and essay questions on-line and mail, email, or deliver in person the required documents
- -OR-
Complete the application form, including the essay questions, print and submit it and the required documents by mail, email, or in person to the U.S. Embassy in Minsk. (Please note that the PDF application cannot be saved unless you have Adobe Acrobat.)
- Required documents:
 - The application form, including the essay questions;
 - A visa photo or an electronic version of a photo taken within the last six months (photo should contain head and shoulders, only);
 - A copy of your birth certificate; and
 - An academic transcript on the form provided.

Applicants must provide all parts of the application, visa photo, birth certificate and transcript or they will not be considered for the program. Semi-finalists will be notified of their status after December 15, 2011 and will be invited for an interview and further testing in December 2011 and January 2012. All testing will be conducted in English.

Where and When to Submit Your Application

Applications must be received by the Youth Cultural Opportunity program office by **November 30, 2011**. Applications may be submitted:

In person to:

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section
2A Gertsena St.
220030 Minsk
Belarus
Phone: +375-17-217-0481
8:30-5:30, Monday-Friday
Website: <http://minsk.usembassy.gov>

By email:

ycoprogram@gmail.com

On line:

www.vcopportunity.org/yc

YCO Application Biographical Data

Student Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Gender: Male

Female

Date of Birth: dd/mm/yyyy

____/____/____

Place of Birth: (city, country)

Citizenship

Email Address

Current Mailing Address:

House Number Street

Apartment No.

Region

Postal Index

City

Country

Home telephone: (Code Number): _____

Other number where you can be contacted: (Code Number): _____

Whose telephone is this?

Name: _____ Relationship to You: _____

Mother:

Current Family Name

First Name

Middle Name

Father:

Family Name

First Name

Middle Name

Study of English:

How many years have you studied English? _____

Where did you study English?

School - Which grades? _____

Tutor - How many years? _____

Private school, center, or club - How many years? _____

Name(s) of private school, center, or club: _____

School Information

Class (circle one): 8 9 10 11 12 1 2

School (city and number or name)

Telephone Number: City Code Number

School Address

Name of school director

YCO Application

Essay Questions

Student Name

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

You must answer all three essay questions in English. Each answer should be no more than 300 words. They can be shorter if you like, but we suggest a minimum of 100 words per essay. We recommend that you write the answers to these questions yourself rather than ask for help from your teachers or parents.

1. Describe a recent situation outside of school that didn't turn out the way you expected. What happened? What did you do?
 2. Describe something important that you learned from an experience outside of school in the past three years. How will it help you to be a successful program participant?
 3. Imagine you are in the U.S. You and your host family are leaving Saturday morning to go to visit a relative for the weekend. A new friend calls to invite you to a party the same Saturday. What will you do? Why?
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Essay 1

YCO Application Essay Questions

Student Name

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Essay 2

Essay 3

YCO Application Student Grade Transcript

Student Name

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

At this point in the process, you should complete this form yourself based on your records. If you are selected for an interview, you will be required to get a stamped transcript from your school.

School (city and number or name): _____

	Academic Year 2009-2010	Academic Year 2010-2011	Academic Year 2011-2012
Grading Scale	Class to	Class to	Class to
SUBJECTS	Final Marks	Final Marks	Current Marks (this year)
English Language			
Native Language:			
Other Language:			
Other Language:			
Literature			
Mathematics			
Algebra			
Geometry			
Computer Science			
Social Science			
History			
Government			
Geography			
Physics			
Chemistry			
Astronomy			
Biology			
Fine Arts			
Drawing			
Music			
Physical Training			
Work (shop/home economics)			
Other:			