



United States Arctic Youth Ambassadors 2015 Nomination Guidelines

For: Teachers, Mentors, and Youth Advocates

What is the Arctic Youth Ambassadors Program?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of State, and nonprofit partner Alaska Geographic have joined together to establish the *United States Arctic Youth Ambassadors* program which will serve an important role in Arctic public outreach and education during the U.S. Chairmanship (2015-2017) of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by Arctic governments and peoples.

The Arctic Youth Ambassadors program brings together diverse youth from across Alaska to serve as ambassadors for their communities and country, building awareness at home and abroad about life in Alaska, the US's Arctic state. Ambassadors will add their voices and solutions to a global conversation about how to sustain communities, cultures, and the environment in a changing Arctic.

Ambassadors will participate in a variety of programs and projects and are expected to:

- share stories from Alaska about the changing Arctic through local and national media,
- attend trainings and seminars,
- participate in exchanges between rural and urban communities, and
- participate in Arctic Council-related events and presentations at conferences.

Experiences will vary for each participant, and may include engaging in one of the many Arctic Council-related meetings and events taking place in Anchorage, Barrow, Kotzebue, and Juneau; participating in an Anchorage-based Arctic Youth Ambassadors summit in January 2016; attending an Arctic Science Summit in March 2016; and participating in a weeklong summer rural exchange. Additionally, Arctic Youth Ambassadors will document their experiences through social media or other creative means such as writing or video in order to share their stories and experiences as an ambassador with their community and beyond. *Learn more on the Arctic Youth Ambassadors Facebook page.*

Nominating a Student:

Who might be eligible as a Youth Ambassador? We are seeking students who meet the following criteria:

- High school seniors or college students (age 16-20)
- Available to participate intermittently over the next 18 months (approx.)
- Will have committed support of a mentor (may be a teacher, coach, counselor, relative, community leader, or other adult mentor)

- Show a high level of maturity, high potential in leadership, and would be successful working with peers from a wide diversity of backgrounds
- Demonstrate an interest in issues relevant to the changing Arctic—these issues range from ecology, wildlife, and traditional knowledge to sustainable economic development, national and international policy, and health and wellbeing of Arctic communities
- Are willing and able to travel (with in-state travel expenses covered by the program and some flexibility to accommodate school schedules)
- Students who may not have had these types of opportunities in the past but would contribute and gain a great deal
- Willingness and ability to be involved in programs and projects intermittently through 2017

How to complete the initial nomination/application:

- Photo-copy application form and give to each student you would like to nominate
- Collect the **student application form** and **mentor commitment form** back from each student. As a nominator, please help the student as necessary to complete and turn in the forms on time
- Send a nomination note for each student explaining how the student meets criteria (See below for details)
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning October 8th through October 30th.** We highly recommend you apply as early as possible

The nomination and selection process will be managed by Alaska Geographic and will include a committee of partners to determine final selection of the 15 Arctic Youth Ambassadors. Our goal is for the Arctic Youth Ambassadors to collectively represent a diversity of Alaskan youth, including consideration for: geographic regions, cultural backgrounds and affiliations, gender, interests, skills and experiences, and organization connections. Accepted students will be contacted in late October. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that everyone who applies will be able to participate. We will keep a waiting list in case a spot opens up. With student consent, we will send their information to organizations with other student opportunities.

Nomination Note:

- For each student, explain how he or she meets the nomination criteria (this can be done via a written letter, email, or phone conversation):
 1. In what capacity do you know the student? What has this experience shown you about him/her?
 2. How does this student fit some or all of the nomination criteria?
 3. How would this student benefit from being an Arctic Youth Ambassador?
 4. What skills or experience would this student bring to the Arctic Youth Ambassadors program?
 5. Is there anything we should know about the nominee to help make this a successful experience?

Submit nomination, application, and any questions to:

Molly Schouweiler at Alaska Geographic

You may send nomination and application forms via email, fax, or send photo of application via email.

Email: mschouweiler@alaskageographic.org

Phone: 907-771-8466 Fax: 907-274-8343



Arctic Youth Ambassadors meeting with Secretary Jewell and Secretary Kerry at GLACIER Conference, Anchorage, 8/31/2015

Arctic Youth Ambassador Mentor Commitment Form

Student nominee you will help support: _____

Your name: _____

Professional affiliation (if any): _____

Best way to contact you:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Other: _____

Describe your relationship with the nominated student:

Briefly share how you as a mentor could support the student who has been nominated as an Arctic Youth Ambassador.

A typical experience as a mentor may include:

- Supporting student in preparation for public speaking event
- Helping student prepare and pack for conference/programs
- Helping student host an exchange with their community
- Helping the student share their experiences with their school or community (e.g. through articles in the press, presentations at community events)
- Engaging students in leadership opportunities in their local communities
- Transporting students to and from airport

Arctic Youth Ambassador Student Application

The Arctic Youth Ambassadors program will bring together students across Alaska to serve as ambassadors for their communities and country in building awareness at home and abroad about life in Alaska, the US Arctic. Ambassadors will add their voices and solutions to a global conversation about how to sustain communities, cultures and the environment in a changing Arctic.

Ambassadors' will participate in a variety of programs and projects, and are expected to:

- share stories from Alaska about the changing arctic through a variety of local and national media
- attend trainings and seminars
- participate in exchanges between rural and urban communities, and
- participate in Arctic Council related events and presenting at conferences.
- Learn more from the first 5 Arctic Youth Ambassadors on Facebook.

A typical experience as an Arctic Youth Ambassador may include participating in one of the many Arctic Council related events taking place in Anchorage, Barrow, Kotzebue, and Juneau; participating in an Anchorage based Arctic Youth Ambassadors summit in January 2016; attending an Arctic Science Summit in March 2016, and participating in a weeklong summer rural exchange. Additionally, Ambassadors will share stories and document their experiences through social media writing, interviews, or video to share their stories and experiences as an ambassador.

As an Arctic Youth Ambassador you may be eligible to receive high school or college credit.

There is no tuition or fee to participate and in-state transportation expenses will be covered by the program.

Required Attendance

- November-December 2015 Distance Orientation meeting- Dates TBD
- January 16-18th 2016 Arctic Youth Ambassador Summit, Anchorage, Alaska
- March 12-18th 2016 Arctic Science Summit Week, Fairbanks, Alaska
- Summer Rural Exchange 2016- Date and Location TBD

Optional Programs

- Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meetings
 - October 20-22nd 2015 Anchorage, Alaska
 - March 7-9th 2017 Juneau, Alaska
- Sustainable Development Working Group Meetings
 - March 11-12th 2016 Barrow, Alaska
 - September 29-30 2016 Unalaska, Alaska
 - February 7-8th 2017 Kotzebue, Alaska
- Alaska Forum on the Environment
 - February 8-12th 2016 Anchorage, Alaska
- Urban-rural exchanges 2015-2017- Dates TBD

How to Apply

1. You must be nominated by an adult who provides a recommendation for you.
2. Ask a mentor to help you through this program (they will need to submit a mentor commitment form).
3. Complete and return application to your nominator by October 5th.
4. Accepted students will be contacted by phone or mail between mid October and mid November. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that everyone who applies will be able to participate.

Arctic Youth Ambassadors Student Application form:

First and Last Name: _____ **Preferred nickname:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Age:** _____ **Current Grade:** _____ **School:** _____

Name of Nominator: _____

Nominator's phone or email: _____

Name of Mentor (if different than Nominator): _____

Mentor's phone or email: _____

Your Contact Information

Home phone # _____ **Your cell #** _____ **Your email** _____

Mailing address _____

Guardian #1 (The best adult to contact: Mom, Dad, Grandma, etc.)

Name _____ **Relationship to you** _____

Address _____

Home phone # _____ **Cell phone #** _____ **Email** _____

Best time/method to contact you _____

Guardian #2 (A second adult we can contact)

Name _____ **Relationship to you** _____

Address _____

Home phone # _____ **Cell phone #** _____ **Email** _____

Please list any other relevant phone #'s and to whom they belong:

What you are most interested in related to changes in Alaska and the Arctic (check one or more):

- Wildlife and ecosystems
- Human and community health
- Languages and cultures
- Traditional Ways of Life
- Sustainable Economic development
- Environmental change
- National or international policy
- Social Media Content (photos, writing, video)
- Others (please list)_____

What skills or experiences would you contribute to this program?

What are ideas you have for sharing stories of life in the arctic (changes in the arctic, arctic issues you are passionate about) with your community and throughout the state and abroad?

Are you able to attend events on the following dates? Check boxes for dates you are available

- Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting October 19-22nd 2015 Anchorage, Alaska
- January 16-18th 2016 Arctic Youth Ambassador Summit (required attendance)**
- March 11-18th 2016 Arctic Science Summit Week (required attendance)**
- Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting March 10-12th 2016 Barrow, Alaska
- Summer Rural Exchange 2016- Date and Location TBD
- Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting September 29-30 2017 Unalaska, Alaska
- Arctic Council Senior Arctic Official Meeting March 7-9th 2017 Juneau, Alaska
- Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting February 6-8th 2017 Kotzebue, Alaska

Are there any times of year when it would be easiest for you to travel to attend programs?

When_____

Any times of year you would not be able to travel at all?

When_____

May we forward your name and contact information to other organizations for similar opportunities? Yes___ No___

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if you are under 18): _____ **Date:** _____

Return this form by email, fax, or take a clear picture and attach to text or email to:

Alaska Geographic, attention Molly Schouweiler

email: mschouweiler@alaskageographic.org

phone: 907-771-8466

fax: 907-274-8343