

# AFS Intercultural Programs/USA Fact Sheet

## AFS-USA Mission

AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

## AFS-USA History

AFS Intercultural Programs has been a leader in international high school student exchange for more than 60 years and is part of a worldwide AFS network. Formerly the American Field Service, AFS Intercultural Programs was founded during World Wars I & II by young Americans who volunteered as ambulance drivers. The founding belief was that building a more just and peaceful world begins when people from different countries and cultures meet, learn together, and better understand one another. In 1947, AFS exchanged 52 young people from 11 countries formerly at war, establishing a movement to promote understanding and peace through international student exchange.

## AFS-USA Today

- Sends approximately **1,400 participants** abroad.
- Welcomes **2,500 international high school exchange students** into the U.S.
- Is supported by more than **6,000 volunteers** in the U.S. who make the work of AFS possible.

## The AFS International Network

AFS is a worldwide, nonprofit organization that has been leading international high school student exchange for more than 60 years. The AFS network:

- Exchanges more than **12,000 students** each year.
- Has more than **50 AFS Partner Countries** including AFS-USA.
- Maintains an **alumni network of more than 400,000 individuals** who have studied abroad on an AFS Program, and currently live in more than 75 countries around the world.
- Is supported by more than **42,000 AFS Volunteers** worldwide.

## Hosting an Exchange Student with AFS-USA

- AFS-USA staff and volunteers work with U.S. schools to provide them with outstanding students from abroad who contribute greatly to academic and community life.
- Volunteers work with students, families, schools, and community organizations to illustrate the benefits of an intercultural educational opportunity.
- Host families provide students with a bed, meals, and the same care they give to their own family members. Host families and students receive ongoing support during the process from AFS-USA staff and volunteers.

## Studying Abroad with AFS-USA

- AFS-USA has year, semester, and summer programs abroad for high school students ages 15-18.
- Gap Programs are geared specifically for high school graduates and individuals over 18 who are interested in making a difference through international community service or university programs.
- A language requirement is not necessary for most AFS-USA programs.

## AFS-USA Public Diplomacy Initiatives

AFS-USA has been selected to participate in several public diplomacy programs and others that are aligned with the AFS mission including:

- **Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES)** is a program designed to grow partnerships through learning experiences for students in countries with significant Muslim populations. This groundbreaking program with the U.S. Department of State and AFS-USA has provided more than 1000 scholarships to high school students from Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, the Philippines, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa to study in the U.S.
- The **Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program** is a U.S. government-sponsored program for secondary school students from the 12 republics of the former Soviet Union (Eurasia). The program provides scholarships for students to travel to the U.S., attend a U.S. high school for a full academic year, and live with a U.S. host family to promote democratic values and institutions.
- The **National Security Languages Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)** offers 680 full scholarships funded by the U.S. Department of State for summer, semester, and year programs with a focus on language acquisition to the following destinations: China, Egypt, India, South Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, and Turkey
- The **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CB)** provides scholarships covering a year of study between Germany and the U.S. Jointly sponsored by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, the program has exchanged more than 13,000 students between the countries. Students attend high school and live with a host family.

## Scholarships for AFS-USA

- AFS-USA awards **more than \$3 million in financial aid and scholarships** to students each year.
- More than **40% of AFS-USA participants receive some form of financial assistance** each year either need-based, merit-based or both.
- **Global Leaders** is the primary AFS scholarship program, offering partial need and merit-based scholarships to qualified applicants.
- **Faces of America:** AFS-USA's signature diversity program makes it possible for high school students from underserved communities to receive scholarship awards to study abroad in more than 23 countries around the world.
- **AFS Family Scholarships:** These awards are given to applicants who are former host family members, returnees, children of returnees, and of descendants of AFS Ambulance Drivers.
- **Yoshi Hattori Memorial Scholarship:** This merit-based scholarship is designed to promote intercultural understanding and peace, and was created in memory of Yoshi Hattori, an AFS Exchange Student to the U.S. from Japan.
- **Toshiyuki Tanaka American Embassy Scholarship:** This is a need-based and merit-based scholarship awarded through the Pacific Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and the generosity of Mr. Toshiyuki Tanaka.

*Please note: This is a partial list of scholarships and financial aid. For the latest on available scholarships and deadlines, please visit [www.afsusa.org/scholarships](http://www.afsusa.org/scholarships).*

*AFS Intercultural Programs/USA is a 501(c)3 organization.*

**For more information please call 1-800-876-2377 or visit [www.afsusa.org](http://www.afsusa.org)**