



American Youth Leadership Program

Hong Kong-Guangzhou, China



AYLP FAQ

The American Youth Leadership Program in Hong Kong and Guangzhou is a fully funded cultural exchange and environmental studies program for high school students from the San Francisco Bay Area. In July 2015, the group will explore Hong Kong and Guangzhou while developing their global leadership skills around the topic of urban environmental sustainability.



WHAT WILL YOU DO ON AYLP?

During this program you will:

- Meet other young leaders from the Bay Area and China who are passionate about the environment
- Travel to Hong Kong and Guangzhou from July 1-22, 2015
- Visit organizations that are pursuing innovative solutions to pressing environmental problems, and participate in workshops on leadership and the environment
- Explore new cultures through field trips, language classes and homestays
- Exchange ideas with local high school students at a three-day service learning conference
- Be empowered to bring these ideas back to your own community by implementing your own environmental service project

The program will provide a mix of experiential learning and exchange activities. On one day, for example, you may take introductory Mandarin classes in the morning, and spend the afternoon visiting a community group that takes a creative approach to rooftop gardening amidst the Hong Kong highrises. On another day, you might hear a lecture about environmental threats to local wildlife, and then visit a regional wildlife preserve to see those impacts up close and personal.

WHY JOIN AYLP?

The goal of the AYLP program in Hong Kong and Guangzhou is to introduce young leaders to new cultures and ideas, fostering an interest in cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation on pressing global issues, like the environment. The program will focus on areas such as waste, energy and water, where students have the ability to make direct choices that create change.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

The program is fully funded by the U.S. Department of State. The costs that are covered include:

- International airfare to/from San Francisco
- All transportation, lodging and meals
- All visas required for travel
- All program activities and workshops
- Health and accident insurance while traveling

The costs that are **NOT covered** include:

- Passport fees – participants are responsible for obtaining a passport (estimated cost: \$105-\$135).
**There will be some scholarship money for students who can't afford this process.*
- Passport and visa photos
- Travel to and from San Francisco airport
- Spending money for souvenirs, etc
- Small gift for host families

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

If you are selected for AYLP, you must:

- Participate in pre-departure activities, including assigned readings, discussions and orientations between April and the July 2015 trip.
- Obtain a passport by April 30, 2015.
- Travel to Hong Kong and mainland China in July 2015.
- Complete a community service project at your school between August-December 2015.

ABOUT VIA AND AYLP

VIA (Volunteers in Asia) is a nonprofit with 51 years of experience running cultural exchange and experiential learning programs in Asia. Our programs strive to encourage young leaders to learn about other cultures and empower them to become changemakers. Learn more at www.viaprograms.org.

The American Youth Leadership Programs are sponsored by the Youth Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and are intended to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries, prepare youth leaders to become responsible citizens and contributing members of the community, spark an interest in learning about foreign cultures, and develop a generation of young Americans with the cultural understanding to advance international dialogue and compete in the global economy.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

VIA has extensive experience working on student cultural exchange programs. VIA staff members and three Bay Area educators will ensure that participants are well supervised at all times, and we have comprehensive emergency plans in place in case problems arise during the program. We will provide time for periodic check-ins between students and their families during the program, and VIA staff in our San Francisco headquarters will be in constant contact with the traveling group while the students are abroad.

There will be an extensive pre-departure orientation before the group leaves that will cover topics from health, logistics, communications and emergency plans during the program. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Program Director Brooke Bryant at brooke@viaprograms.org if you have any questions, or visit website for the 2015 cohort at www.via2015aylp.weebly.com.

