

## **Guidelines for Applicants**

Youth Ambassadors Program 2006  
Indiana Partners of the Americas

Youth Exchange Committee:  
Leslie Barratt  
Becky Roberts  
Jhani Laupus

### Objectives of Partners of the Americas:

Through committees of volunteers, the objective of Partners is to put community resources to work to facilitate technical and cultural projects based on the principles of shared assistance and benefits, without reference to race, religion or political creeds.

### Objectives of the Youth Exchange Program:

To provide Indiana youth with an opportunity for intercultural exchange and experience in Indiana's partner state, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (RGS), by creating an awareness of cooperation between cultures and promoting volunteerism.

### Program Requirements:

A maximum number of six youths will be selected each year. A special committee appointed by the Indiana Partners Board of Directors will make the selection. Each youth will be responsible for his/her air transportation. Program activities, lodging and food will be the responsibility of the RGS Committee. The length of the exchange will be approximately two months in the period June-August. Each youth will complete the program established by the RGS Committee in one or more cities. The programming will include participation of the youth in volunteer activities in his or her area of interest. Youth who complete the program are expected to participate voluntarily in Partners activities after returning home.

### Application Requirements:

The applicant must be between 15 and 18 years of age during the period of the trip and not a university student.

He/she must be or become a member of Indiana Partners in the family category with his/her dues paid up to date;

If the candidate does not have a passport valid beyond the period of travel, he/she should apply for one immediately!

The applicant must submit a written essay a maximum of 1 page in length, whose themes are: the reasons why he/she wishes to be chosen for the Partners Youth Ambassadors Program; expectations of the program, including any interest in developing Portuguese language skills and volunteer interests; how he/she might work with the Indiana Committee on returning, and his/her opinion about youth participation in volunteer activities.

### Each youth candidate also must present:

1. A letter of recommendation from one of his/her parents, including any pertinent information about the candidate that will help the Selection Committee. This letter also should include a statement from his/her parents agreeing to these guidelines.
2. A letter from his/her doctor specifying the candidate's general state of health, including medication taken regularly, and any health problems that could occur in order to facilitate any necessary treatment. It should cite, for example, diabetes, asthma, any prohibited activities, medicines for which there may be an allergic reaction, allergies and other facts deemed important by the doctor.

3. At least one letter of recommendation from the principal, a teacher or a leader in the civic or church community that can address the applicant's industriousness and participation in extracurricular activities.
4. At least one letter of recommendation from people who can speak to the applicant's character.
5. Letter of recommendation from a member of Indiana Partners (if you do not know a Partners member, an interview with one can be arranged instead).

An application fee of \$10.00 must accompany the application. This is in addition to your annual membership dues to Indiana Partners of the Americas.

Only those applications containing all the requested information and complete documentation will be considered for final selection.

#### Requirements for Selected Participants

1. Youths chosen are required to participate in all preparatory meetings organized by the Youth Ambassadors Committee.
2. Those selected for the program must pay a project fee of \$30.00. This fee is taken to RGS Partners to help cover their administrative costs for arranging programs and host families.
3. All candidates will travel together in a group both going and returning. Exceptions regarding return dates will be handled on an individual basis. Indiana Partners will assist in finding the cheapest airfare for the best service.
4. Health insurance valid for use in Brazil that meets the criteria of Partners of the Americas, Inc. is required. Traveling youth must take their insurance card or information with them.
5. The candidate's parents or legal guardian must complete the authorization and release from liability form provided by Indiana Partners.
6. Documentation necessary for travel outside the country, including passport, Brazilian visa and any authorization required by the Brazilian government for a minor to travel unaccompanied by his/her parents. Indiana Partners will assist with obtaining a Brazilian visa from the Consulate in Chicago.
7. Participants must complete the program organized and prepared for him/her in Rio Grande do Sul.
8. If the participant has not already done so, the youth and his/her family are expected to host a participant from Rio Grande do Sul in a later exchange.
9. Any difficulties that may occur after arrival in Rio Grande do Sul must be brought immediately to the attention of the program coordinator or the president of RGS Partners.
10. Upon their return, participants are required to prepare a written report of their experiences with any recommendations for improvements to the program, an article for the newsletter, and an oral presentation at either a Board of Directors meeting or the Annual Meeting.

#### Important Dates:

March 30 - Final date for submission of complete application.

April 15 - Announcement of applicants selected.

May 1 - Rio Grande do Sul Partners notified of successful applicants.

Mail completed application to: Dr Leslie Barratt, 1516 S 6th Street Terre Haute IN 47802.

You may direct questions to Dr Barratt at 812-232-3604