

YOUTH BUILDING BRIDGES

2013 US-China Abroad Education Initiative

Program and Application Information

Destination: Jingxian, An'hui Province, China

Travel Dates: July 1 – July 17, 2013

Application: January 15 - February 15, 2013

Youth Building Bridges Program

Youth Building Bridges empowers American and Chinese students to travel to rural, poverty-stricken areas in China, teaching and sharing their knowledge within the primary and secondary education systems. Through education and social guidance, American students develop an international perspective and gain a unique experience of the power of education within the global community.

Anhui Province

Anhui province is a rural, picturesque valley in southeastern China, bounded by mountains and steeped in history. The people of Anhui are mainly farmers, facing economic hardship and limited resources. YBB participants will spend two weeks working with a local school in Jingxian, teaching young students and learning about local culture and traditions within the community. They may also be selected to participate in a new aspect of the program, educating local teachers, who have a very limited knowledge of the English language. Volunteers will also take advantage of sightseeing opportunities, traveling on the weekend to visit places around Yellow Mountain, one of the most famous mountains in China.

The program's academic courses include computer, English, health and hygiene, environmental protection, culture and so on. Participants will work as professional teachers, giving lectures to the secondary students in Jingxian.

Application Requirements for 2013:

1. Students must be actively enrolled in an American high school.
2. Applicants must submit the application form and one-page essay before deadline. Preference will be given to students with teaching, tutoring or volunteer experience.

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3. Applicants must demonstrate maturity and independence and be able to actively communicate with teachers and students in Jingxian Secondary school.
4. Students must be able to carry out teaching responsibilities for the duration of the trip.
5. Participants cannot be late or absent and must understand they will be traveling in very rural, poverty-stricken areas, living in challenging conditions and working long hours.
6. All admitted applicants will be required to prepare a curriculum which they are going to teach with the help of C&T before arriving in Jingxian.

Application Process

1. Applicants need to submit the application, essay and \$250.00 application deposit with application before **February 15, 2013**. The deposit check should be made payable to **CTYTA: YBB** and mailed to **C&T Youth Building Bridges, 14320 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD 20850**.
2. Qualified students will be asked to participate in an interview. Washington DC area students will have an in-house interview and out-of-state students will have an online video interview.
3. 3-5 mins long teaching demonstration video/CD/Movie file will be required for the interview.
4. Acceptance letter will be sent out one week after interview.

Itinerary

- March 1: Online training begins
- June 17 - 21: Intensive in-house training begins at C & T Youth Technology Academy
- July 1: Orientation and US-China YBB Group unit training at Shanghai JiaoTong University
- July 1: Stay overnight at Shanghai JiaoTong University Hotel on campus
- July 2: Leave from Shanghai, travel to Jianxian, An'hui
- July 3 - 17: Education and Local Project Program
- *Trip Includes: Two days and one night Yellow Mountain, Hongcun Village and Huizhou cultural discovery tour. (It may be adjusted because of local weather.)*
- July 18: Back to Shanghai

Deposit and Cost

Deposit: An application deposit of \$250 must be submitted with the application to reserve a space for the student. This deposit does not guarantee acceptance. If the student is accepted to YBB, the deposit will be applied to the cost. If an application is rejected or if space in the program is not available, all deposit/payment will be refunded in full.

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Program Cost: Due to the great cost of traveling overseas, the fee per student this year is \$1,650.00. This increase is 10% over 2012, due to rising inflation costs in China. C & T has also made improvements to the training program in Shanghai, and has made every effort to keep expenses as low as possible. The fee includes student educator training program, all food and accommodation while traveling, local travel expenses throughout China, local projects, student insurance (required for every student), and miscellaneous costs like clothing, sleeping bags/mats, education materials, etc. while in An' hui.

This fee does not include the international flight and visa fee for travel to China.

Fundraising

To help students fund travel and program expenses, C & T encourages all students to participate in fundraising activities. These include bake sales, concerts, interaction with the local community, and online opportunities. More information will be provided after acceptance into the program. Many students have successfully raised funds for their YBB trip, and are encouraged to begin fundraising efforts as soon as they are accepted to the program.

Scholarship Opportunities

Each year, YBB awards high-achieving participants scholarships through a rewards-based scholarship program. To be considered for a scholarship, participants must demonstrate maturity, advanced leadership skills among students and teachers, and high-level dedication to the YBB program initiatives. Students are selected and notified upon return from their trip.

Payment Arrangement, Refund and Cancellation Policy

The application fee must be submitted at the time of application. Payment in full of the cost must be received before *March 1st, 2013*. If an application is rejected or if space in the program is full, all application fees/payments will be refunded in full. A \$500 cancellation fee will be charged after *March 1, 2013*. No refunds will be permitted after *May 1, 2013*.

Organizers and Partners:

The YBB program was founded by C&T Youth Technology Academy, organizers of the annual trip. C&T works with a distinguished group of partners, including "Building Bridges" program of Yale University, "I-Volunteer" of Jiaodong University in Shanghai China, the Chinese Education Departments (Anhui province China), and Anhui Oversea Chinese Union.

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C&T Youth Technology Academy is a leading innovator of youth education, revolutionizing a new era of learning through technology-based coursework not found within the traditional education system. Utilizing the latest technology, students prepare to become leaders in their chosen professional fields.

C & T offers programs to prepare students for well-rounded early career training through two facets: academic and community service. At C&T, students build confidence, maturity and a solid education foundation, all of which are needed to achieve academic and social success.

Academic: In the academic sector, students train in specialized classes and innovative lessons to build on their foundation of education and practical life skills, in order to prepare for college and beyond. Mastering the latest technology gives students an advantage in advanced computer skills, math, writing and global education, preparing them to become leaders in their chosen professional fields.

Community Service: Elementary and middle school students gain leadership skills in local community projects, such as the Interages program, which allows students to share their technological expertise with older generations. High school students take their training to a global level, traveling overseas to serve as leaders and mentors through programs like Youth Building Bridges. These services programs instill a confidence in students, as they gain confidence in public speaking, teaching and leadership.

“Building Bridges” of Yale University

Building Bridges is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 by three Yale students after the Sichuan earthquake to promote awareness about the state of education for rural children. Since its inception, Building Bridges has sent over 150 students from US and Chinese educational institutions to work and have collaborated with over 40 government, educational, and philanthropic organizations to work with children in Beijing and Sichuan. Based at Yale, Building Bridges has expanded its operations to create an international platform for students to innovate and create educational resources for Chinese rural children.

“I-Volunteer “ of Jiao Tong University

I-Volunteer association is a student organization that is based in Shanghai Jiao Tong University, which consists of Bachelors, Masters and PHD students from China. Up to now, most of the members are students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. We are an independent group established in 2010. Our mentor is Mrs. Teng, Director of YBB Program, who led us to build our organization in Shanghai. The team is focusing on both the bridge between Chinese college student and Chinese-American students as

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well as teaching impoverished educational systems. In the past few years, we already held 2 programs in Hangzhou, Shan Dong Province and An'hui Province.

College Admission for High School Applicants

Upon completion of the YBB program, students receive a Global Service Certificate and an official program transcript documenting the extensive work performed. Outstanding students will receive YBB Awards for Excellent Leadership. Students also receive a letter of recommendation that may be submitted to colleges as part of the admissions process.

Project Funding and Scholarship Opportunities

In light of the success of the 2009 YBB program to Sichuan province, site of the devastating 2008 earthquake, and 2010 YBB program to Shandong province, C&T plans to provide financial support to explore innovative public projects created by students involved in the YBB program. American and Chinese college students will participate in educational practice and U.S. high school volunteers will work with local students to team together, supporting projects in areas of rural eco-environmental protection, new rural construction, health education, adolescent psychology and other related areas. Experts and scholars will inspire and motivate students to invent long-term solutions to problems faced in rural communities. Design, development, and implementation projects for sustainable development in the future will involve YBB participants long after their journey to China is over. Through transparent selection, the YBB organizing committee will announce winning projects and groups, rewarding students with prizes and honorary certificates.