

**C & T Youth Technology Academy**  
*Educate. Empower. Enrich. Achieve.*

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**YOUTH BUILDING BRIDGES**

**2014 US-China Abroad Education Initiative**

Program and Application Information

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<b>Destination1:</b>	Jingxian, An' hui Province, China
<b>Destination2:</b>	Jishishan, Gan' su Province, China
<b>Travel Dates:</b>	June 27-July 14 (Education Exchange) July 15-July 23 (Culture Exploration)
<b>Application Period:</b>	February 8 – March 1, 2014

**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 a unique education and social experience, American students develop an international perspective and gain an exceptional understanding of the power of education within the global community.

**An' hui 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.

## **Gan'su Province**

Gansu Province is located in northwest China, on the edge of the Yellow river. Home of the famous Silk Road, Gansu is considered the cradle of modern civilization, with international trade dating back to the Han dynasty. Largely influenced by a multi-ethnic mixture of cultures, including Mongolian and Tibetan, Gansu province offers a dramatic landscape filled with history and beautiful natural scenery. Gansu province is large. The northern part of the province is the gateway to the Gobi desert, and experiences extreme temperature changes, while the southern region of the province enjoys temperate summer temperatures. Despite its multi-cultural influence, commerce and history, Gansu remains one of the poorest and undeveloped provinces in China.

## **YBB Educational Program Focus**

Although each destination offers its own challenges, the focus remains the same for each, to provide educational resources to impoverished schoolchildren. The program's academic courses include English language, computer proficiency, science and social studies, health and hygiene, protection of environmental resources, and US/China cultural exchange. YBB volunteers will work as professional teachers, educating through interactive workshop and demonstration to primary and secondary students.

## **Application Requirements for 2014**

1. Students must be actively enrolled in an American high school.
2. Applicants must submit the application form and essay before the deadline. Preference will be given to students with teaching, tutoring or volunteer experience.
3. Applicants must demonstrate maturity and independence and be able to actively communicate with teachers and students in local primary and secondary schools.
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. Aside from weekend breaks, YBB volunteers can expect to spend most waking hours working, interacting and educating the students.
6. Students must follow the rules and regulations set forth by the program. Students must also complete tasks and jobs assigned to them.
7. All admitted applicants will be required to prepare the curriculum that they are going to teach, with the help of C&T, before arriving in China. Applicants must be prepared to spend hours of preparation time, which may fall during end-of-the year school finals. It is important applicants understand preparation for the trip is a requirement and time management is imperative leading up to travel to China.

## Application Process

1. Candidates need to submit the application, essays and \$250.00 application deposit before **March 1, 2014**. 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-person interview and out-of-state students will have an online video interview.
3. A 3-5 minute long teaching demonstration, either in person or via video/CD/movie file, will be required for the interview.
4. Acceptance letters will be sent out on **Feb. 26** and **Mar. 5** after interviews are completed.

## Itinerary

- March 15 – June 15: Online training
- June 27-29: Orientation & US-China YBB Group training exchange and on campus tour at Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- June 27-29: Stay at Shanghai Jiao Tong University Hotel on campus
- June 30: Leave from Shanghai to Jingxian, An’hui or Jishishan, Gan’su
- July 1 - 14: Education and local project program
- July 15-23: Culture exploration in Gan’su China
- July 15 or July 24: 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.

Program Cost: Due to the great cost of traveling overseas, the fee per student this year is \$1,650.00 for Jingxian, An’hui Province, and addition \$150 transportation for those traveling to Jishishan, Gansu Province. There is an additional fee, which is 10% of the 2013 total, due to rising inflation costs in China, and extra days in Shanghai. 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 and Gan’su.

*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, interactions 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 awarded a scholarship upon returning from their trip.

### **College Admission Advantages 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 will also receive a letter of recommendation that may be submitted to colleges as part of the admissions process.

### **Payment Arrangement, Refund and Cancellation Policy**

The application fee must be submitted at the time of application. Payment in full must be received before **March 14, 2014**. 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 15, 2014**. No refunds will be permitted after **May 1, 2014**.

### **Organizers and Partners:**

The YBB program was founded by C&T Youth Technology Academy, with a distinct focus on offering American youth an opportunity to share their education and resources in a global setting. C&T works with a distinguished group of partners, including the “Building Bridges” program of Yale University, “I- Volunteer” of Jiao Tong University in Shanghai China, the Chinese Education Departments (Anhui province China), and Anhui Oversea Chinese Union.

### **C&T Youth Technology Academy**

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 educational foundation 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. The program serves as a model for Youth Building Bridges.

### **“I-Volunteer” of Jiao Tong University**

I-Volunteer, established in 2010, is a student organization based in Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and consists of Bachelors, Masters and PHD students from China. Until now, most of the members have been students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Mrs. Teng, Director of YBB Program, the program’s mentor, encouraged the students to build the organization in Shanghai. The team is focusing the bridge between Chinese college student and Chinese-American students as well as teaching in impoverished educational systems. The I-Volunteer association has held successful programs in Hangzhou, Shan Dong Province and Anhui Province.

### **Future Projects Funding 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 certificate.

