

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

YOUTH BUILDING BRIDGES
2015 US-China Leadership Education Initiative
Since 2009

Program and Application Information

Application Period:	February 4 – March 1, 2015
Interviews:	February 15- March 9, 2015
<u>Program Part 1:</u>	
Online Lesson Plan Development:	Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland
Dates:	March 15 – June 15
<u>Program Part 2:</u>	
Global Leadership Institute:	YBB Institute in Shanghai, China
Dates:	June 29 – July 11
Professional Time management training / Mental Discipline	YBB Institute, Chongming, Shanghai
YBB – SJTU Youth Leadership Conference:	Shanghai Jiao Tong University
YBB – Shanghai Community Leaders Dialogue:	Chong’ming China
New China City Development Experience:	Chong’ming China
Culture of Shanghai:	Shanghai, China
<u>Program Part 3:</u>	
Teacher/Mentor Education Service Project:	Jishishan, Gan’su Province, China
Dates:	July 11-July 22
<u>Program Part 4 (Optional):</u>	
Cultural Exploration:	Gan’su, China
Dates:	July 23 – 29

Youth Building Bridges Program:

Personal character and leadership development through teaching, exploration, and global service project

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.

At the YBB Institute in Chongming, Shanghai, students are immersed in a leadership, education and personal character development program. Through these initiatives, youth develop skills in leadership, team building, and international community development. In a highly disciplined environment, students learn the importance of responsibility, problem-solving, personal conduct and strength of character. These skills are practically implemented during the service trip. High school students embark on a life-changing adventure, and return home with a newfound maturity and personal skills to become powerful leaders of tomorrow.

Program Part 1: Online Lesson Plan Development

YBB students begin leadership/teacher training months before their actual service trip. Students will meet through group online meetings and in-person through workshops to begin lesson planning and classroom preparation. This aspect of the training is essential so students become introduced to YBB, understand the goals of the program, and learn to meet deadlines for classroom instruction. Much of this work is done independently, so YBB staff has the opportunity to determine the strengths of each YBB student. In some respects, this is the most challenging part of the program, as students must prove themselves as able to work independently to meet stringent deadlines, and reach out to mentors and YBB leaders for assistance if needed.

Program Part 2: YBB Institute at Chong'ming, Shanghai, China

YBB Institute, established in 2015, is a fully integrated immersion center located in the natural setting of Chongming Island. The institute provides students the opportunity to focus in a disciplined environment, with more structured study, combining a strong emphasis on leadership, time management, and personal development. Students will perfect skills in public speaking, teaching, confidence building, and professionalism. YBB leaders will also represent themselves in Chong'ming as global ambassadors, experiencing and participating in community-based projects. YBB serves the motto: from disorganization to organization. Students, through the YBB process,

become more mature, professional, confident, and challenged to achieve personal goals.

YBB students will also participate in several important exchange events:

- The YBB – SJTU Youth Leadership Conference held at the prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Students will meet and discuss important characteristics of a global leader.
- The YBB – Shanghai Community Leaders Dialogue in Chong’ming gives students the opportunity to discuss community issues with high-level local leaders. There, students will learn the importance of community planning and exchange global leadership visions.
- The New China City Development Experience offers students an unprecedented opportunity to experience the birth of a modern urban environment among a natural ecological setting. This is a lifetime chance to see the impact of building for the future and the integration of technology with education, on the island of Chong’ming, Shanghai.

Program Part 3: YBB Teacher/Mentor Education Service Project

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, music and art, personal fitness, and US-China cultural exchange. YBB volunteers will work as professional teachers, educating through interactive workshop and demonstration to primary and secondary students.

YBB students will put leadership and teaching/mentor skills into real world practice, representing the US as global service volunteers. In 2015, students will travel to Gan’su Province, to work with local students and village teachers from elementary through middle school. Classes will revolve around formal study through the “Western style” of teaching: interaction, group workshops and hands-on activities. This service trip is an intensive work program teaches students to problem solve quickly in a resource scarce and challenging environment, use flexibility in leadership roles, and work in a team.

Program Part 4 (optional): Cultural Exploration

Through the generous support of the government of China, YBB students are offered the chance for a cultural exploration of the northern part of China after the service trip. Students will travel to different locations, learning about the unique culture of Gan’su Province. Steeped in history, students learn thousands of years of cultural tradition throughout this desert landscape. This invaluable opportunity is optional for YBB students, but certainly not to be missed.

Chongming, Shanghai

Chong'ming, Shanghai is the third largest island in China. It is located on the Yangze River estuary. Chong'ming, a 21st century "Island Garden Town," is the largest alluvial island on Yangze and the largest sand island in the world.

YBB chose to establish the institute in Chong'ming because it is a new, modern ecological city, a demonstration of modern urbanization set among a natural landscape. Chong'ming is a stone's throw from downtown Shanghai and YBB's partner, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

This new community focuses on low carbon, sustainable development. The island will become an epi-center for ecological tourism, energy conservation, and efficiency with an eco-friendly and livable urban layout. It combines modern urbanization with an eco-mindful approach to living, using wind, solar and biotic energy. Construction applies the use of open space along with harmonious design and advanced ecological technology. Chong'ming is currently implementing a zone of higher education, an international business zone, a municipal green industrial zone focused on software technology, and land dedicated sports and leisure.

Chong'ming is a true example of a community for the future, using innovative concepts. Shopping, pedestrian streets, national park land, bicycle tracks, and industrialization to establish a city with little disruption to the natural environment.

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.

Application Requirements for 2015

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 must submit the application, essays and \$250.00 application deposit before **March 1, 2015**. 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 before **Mar. 10** after interviews are completed.

Itinerary

- March 14 – YBB 2015 Kickoff Meeting
- March 15 – June 15: Online Lesson Plan Development
- June 29: 8:00am- 10:00am Registration & Orientation at Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- June 29-July 10: YBB Global Leadership Institutes in Chongming
- July 11: Leave from YBB Chongming Institute to Jishishan, Gan'su
- July 12 - 22: Teacher/Mentor Education Service Project at Jishishan, Gan'su
- July 23-29: Culture exploration in Dunhuang, Silk Road, Gan'su of China

Program Policy

Student has option to choose either Part 1-4 or Part 1-3, but no student will be allowed to leave in the middle of the program except emergency situation.

Deposit and Cost

Deposit: An application Fee \$35.00 and the program deposit of \$250 (Two separate Checks) 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 program cost. If an application is rejected or if space in the program is not available, the deposit will be refunded but the application fee will NOT be refunded.

Program Cost: Due to the great cost of traveling overseas, and the additional leadership/empowerment training at the YBB Institute, the fee per student this year is \$2975.00. Cost includes room, meals, and travel in Shanghai, Chongming, and Gansu Province for 31 days. C&T has made every effort to keep expenses as low as possible. The fee includes student educator training program, administration, all food and accommodation while traveling, local travel expenses throughout China, local projects, student insurance (required for every student), and program materials like clothing, sleeping bags/mats, education materials, etc. while in Gan'su, and other miscellaneous expenses.

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

Payment Arrangement, Refund and Cancellation Policy

The application fee and deposit must be submitted at the time of application. Payment in full must be received before **March 14, 2015**. A \$500 cancellation fee will be charged after **March 15, 2015**. No refunds will be permitted after **May 1, 2015**.

Payment Options:

1. Full payment before March 14, \$2975.00
2. Two Payments of \$1565.00: first payment before March 14, second payment before April 30.

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 return from their trip.

College Admission Advantages for High School Applicants

Upon completion of the YBB program, students receive 150-200 SSL, and 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. Each student will also receive a Governor's Volunteer Service Certificate for the State of Maryland.

Organizers and Partners:

The YBB program was founded by C&T Youth Technology Academy, with a distinct focus on offering American future leaders 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, Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai China, the Chinese Education Departments, local governments, and Office of Overseas Chinese Foreign Affairs.

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.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, or Jiaoda, is a public research university located in Shanghai, China. Established in 1896, the university is renowned as one of the oldest and most prestigious and selective universities in China. Today SJTU has 31 schools (departments), 63 undergraduate programs, 250 masters-degree programs, 203 PhD programs, 28 post-doctorate programs, and 11 state key laboratories and national engineering research centers.

YBB has partnered with Jiao Tong University for many years, and they continue to support the YBB program through leadership conference, and cultural exchange with university students.

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.

