

## Who are AYA Host Families?

- Host families may be parents, empty nesters, or a couple without children.
- They must be at least age 25 and provide a safe, supportive and loving home including a place to sleep and study, access to 3 meals a day, and opportunities to participate in all aspects of family life.
- Each host family has the opportunity to select the student they feel will best match their family.

### Host Family Benefits

- Welcome a new son or daughter to your family!
- Claim a charitable tax deduction for hosting students.
- Foster greater understanding between cultures of the world.
- Be a public diplomat!
- Make lifelong friendships.

## Who are AYA Students?

- AYA students ages 15 to 18 come from over 45 countries. They are bright, eager ambassadors from all parts of the world.
- AYA students demonstrate excellent academic and English ability as well as the emotional stability and maturity necessary for a successful U.S. exchange.
- AYA students want to be a true member of their American host family.
- AYA students are provided full medical insurance.
- AYA students make presentations about their native culture and volunteer in the community.

## Become a Local Coordinator

Submit an application to become a Local Coordinator at:  
**[www.academyyear.org](http://www.academyyear.org)**

AYA will contact qualified candidates for an interview and additional information.



"I love my Local Coordinator, Nancy! She is not a superhero with special powers, but she is a superhero with a huge heart, love, understanding, care, leadership and peace! There are leaders in world history like Alexander the Great, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther, and others, but there is no leader and such a nice person as my Local Coordinator Nancy!"

—AYA Student, Ukraine

Visit our website at **[www.academyyear.org](http://www.academyyear.org)** to learn more, access our electronic application, or watch a video about becoming a Local Coordinator:

**For more details, please contact the Field Development Team:**

800.322.4678

**Email:** [ayaapplynow@aifs.org](mailto:ayaapplynow@aifs.org)

**Fax:** 203.399.5280



| High Ridge Park • Stamford, CT 06905  
800.322.4678 • [www.academyyear.org](http://www.academyyear.org)



01/2024

# BECOME AN AYA LOCAL COORDINATOR!



**AYA**  
THE GOLD STANDARD  
A program of the AIFS Foundation

[www.academyyear.org](http://www.academyyear.org)

## What is AYA?

Academic Year in America (AYA) brings international high school students ages 15–18 to the U.S. to live with carefully screened and selected American host families for a semester or academic year.

The aim of the program is for international youth to develop a greater sensitivity to and appreciation for American life, and to stimulate Americans' interest in other cultures and languages.

Since 1981, AYA has enabled more than 35,000 students from more than 45 countries to live with families in the United States while attending high school for a semester or academic year.

## What is a Local Coordinator?

**Local Coordinators are independent contractors who...**

- Find families to host students
- Make placement arrangements with high schools
- Ensure students are safe through regular monthly contact
- Supervise exchange students throughout the year

Supervising requires checking in regularly with the student, host family and high school; submitting reports to the AYA national office; and being available to the student, host family and high school should questions or concerns arise.

This is a rewarding position. Your school and community will appreciate the new perspectives that an AYA student will bring. You will make life-long friendships with your students and will have friends around the world. Your own family and friends will benefit from exposure to students from every part of the globe.

*Please note that all Local Coordinators must be 25 or older.*



## Local Coordinator Responsibilities

**Local Coordinators have a number of important responsibilities:**

- Maintain student safety—this is our top priority
- Identify, screen, interview and select safe and appropriate host families for AYA students.
- Establish relationships with high school administrators to enroll students
- Conduct orientations for host families and students
- Ensure student safety and well-being through monthly visits and phone conversations
- Provide support for students, host families and high schools throughout the AYA program
- Participate in thorough new hire and annual refresher trainings
- Become certified by the U.S. Department of State
- Serve as spokesperson for international exchange and actively market the AYA program

## Local Coordinator Benefits

**Compensation:** While the position is not a full- or part-time paid position, AYA offers compensation for placing and supervising each student. A Local Coordinator receives approximately \$1,100 per student placed and supervised each year.

**International Travel:** AYA holds its National Meeting in a different international location each year. Recent destinations include Vienna, Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro and Florence. Local Coordinators qualify to attend by placing students by a certain deadline. Additional placements earn the trip for a companion and/or a bonus excursion directly following the meeting to nearby international destinations.

**Gold Standard Rewards Points:** Points are awarded for early student placements and are redeemable for travel, electronics, office equipment, and more.

**Special Placement Incentives:** Special incentives offered throughout the placement season have included additional Gold Standard Rewards Points, trips, and tours during the National Meeting.

**Referral Incentives:** Current Local Coordinators are encouraged to recommend potential candidates to become Local Coordinators. A financial incentive is awarded per referral placement.