

Northern Youth Abroad

education through work and travel

FAQ – Canadian Program Recruitment

What is the NYA Canadian Program?

The Northern Youth Abroad Canadian Program is a 10 month program that includes a 6 week placement in Southern Canada during July and August. Placements can be in any province and we have had participants hosted in every province over the years.

Participants work on assignments in their home community to prepare for their trip between February and June and then on reflection assignments in September and October. During the placement, participants attend a 5 day orientation program in Ottawa, then live for 5 weeks in a host family along with another NYA participant (who we call a placement buddy). While living in the host community, participants also volunteer at a work placement. After the 5 weeks living in a host community, participants then return to Ottawa to attend a 4 day re-orientation before returning home.

What are the dates of the placement?

The dates for the 2010 Canadian Program placement are:

Orientation July 1 – July 5 (some participants will have to leave their home communities earlier than July 1st to arrive in Ottawa on time)

Placement in Host Community July 6– August 11th

Re-Orientation August 12th – August 16th

What can I expect from participating in the Canadian Program?

Lots. As a participant you will earn high school credits, gain valuable work experience and skills, meet many new people including other northern youth and members of your host community, and learn about new cultures while sharing your own.

What do I have to do as a participant?

NYA participants have to be committed to the program and have to agree to: complete the program assignments, follow the behaviour policy which includes agreeing not to drink alcohol or do drugs during any point of the program placement, and participate fully in all parts of the program.

Who can apply?

Any youth between the ages of 15 and 21 (on June 1, 2010) living in Nunavut or the Northwest Territories can apply for the NYA Canadian Program. You do not need to be in school to apply or participate.

How do I apply?

Download an application from www.nya.ca or pick one up from your local school or community organization. If you need help or have any questions you can call or email the office. You will also need to find someone to agree to act as your mentor, and submit two referral forms with your application. One of the two referral forms needs to be filled out by your mentor.

If I am selected is there any cost?

Each participant is required to do a small amount of fundraising as a part of their Winter assignments. All program expenses are paid for including travel, accommodations, and a small weekly allowance while on placement.

Why do I need to submit referral forms?

It is difficult to select participants for the program without having an idea of who you are as a person. These tools help us get to know you. It is important that we select participants who will gain a lot from the experience and who are willing to commit themselves to participating.

Who can fill out a referral form for me?

Any non-relative. It could be a teacher, employer, or a family friend. Remember that one of your referral forms needs to be filled out by your mentor.

After I apply what will happen next?

After you submit your application the staff checks to make sure that your application is complete. After the deadline all of the applications are sorted and each eligible applicant is interviewed by telephone by a small selection committee. Before the interview we will send you some hints and tips for interviewing and we can answer any questions you have. After all of the interviews are complete, we select our participants and alternates/waiting list members for this year's program. We will then let everyone know of the results.

How many participants are selected?

This depends on program funding, but we generally pick between 32 and 36 participants for the Canadian Program. We also select a number of alternates/waiting list members. For a number of reasons each year a number of participants withdraw from the program before travelling, and an alternate takes their place. Those alternates who are up to date on their assignments are promoted first, and generally all alternates who complete their assignments are offered a spot in that year's program.

Where can I get more information on the program?

There are lots of ways to find out more. Our website, www.nya.ca, has more information and links to past participants blogs from this summer, and other stories about their experiences. You can talk to our alumni or past mentors who are familiar with NYA. If you would like to contact an alumnus you can ask the office and we will give you contact information for someone who has completed the program. You can also contact the office. We can answer any questions you have, and we have more information that can be mailed or emailed to you.

What if I need help?

The NYA staff is available at all times to help you – with applying to the program, and then if you are selected, with the assignments or anything else you may need help with during the program. Also your mentor is able to assist you and answer questions too. NYA staff are available by phone toll free at 1-866-212-2307 or you can email us at naomi@nya.ca

When are applications due?

Nunavut: Applications are due November 13th

NWT: Applications are due November 16th

The sooner you can submit your application the better. The last few days of recruitment are the busiest and you have a much better chance of faxing it with no problems if you send it in earlier than the due date.