



International Youth Corps (IYC)

Realizing the Dream | 449 Auburn Avenue Northeast | Atlanta, GA 30312 | 404.526.8970 | www.realizingthedream.org

What is the International Youth Corps Program?

Engage, interact, and learn. The International Youth Corps (IYC) provides opportunities for young people, ages 18 to 30, from across the globe, to develop their leadership skills through nonviolence training, international exchange and social entrepreneurship.

The program organizes trips in countries around the globe where participants live, serve, dialogue, and can learn side-by-side, all while enjoying a fulfilling experience that exposes them to the culture and lifestyles, and challenges and opportunities that young people their ages face. Each trip involves certain components, including training in Kingian Nonviolence, leadership development workshops, background information on the host country, service-learning projects and cultural-enrichment activities.

Additionally, at the conclusion of each trip, IYC members are required to develop a proposal for a practical initiative to implement in their community. These initiatives or projects can be as large or small as the member chooses, ranging anywhere from a small tutoring project at a local school to a large scale conference on peace and nonviolence.



What's in it for me?

The IYC is about preparing you as a leader by assisting you in discovering your talents and empowering you to be a positive influence in your community. Benefits include:

- Developing strong leadership capacity
- Connecting with other young leaders and forming relationships around the world
- Increasing understanding of all aspects of international conflicts and varying social issues
- Acquiring first-hand knowledge about diverse countries and peoples
- Learning leadership development skills through lessons on Kingian Nonviolence and conflict resolution training
- Gaining resource development skills such as writing project proposals and fundraising which will help you better apply your efforts in your local community; and
- Certification in Kingian Nonviolence training

What does it cost?

For new members, tuition for the first overseas trip is **\$1,000 USD** (includes airfare, lodging and ground transportation) and **\$500 USD** for all subsequent overseas trips. These costs can be reduced or eliminated on a sliding scale for members whom the tuition may cause financial hardship, and members who have made significant progress on their personal community project or who have shown outstanding dedication to the IYC program. If the IYC program visits your home country, member fees will be waived by the amount of \$250 dollars.

We encourage members to advocate for themselves by seeking out financial support from local businesses, family and friends to sponsor your trip tuition. No applicant should ever consider the financial obligation to be an insurmountable hurdle to admission, as program staff will work with each applicant to determine a feasible arrangement.

Who is eligible to apply?

We are always looking for young leaders who are passionate about peace and nonviolence and ready to make a difference in their communities. Anyone between the ages of 18-30 is eligible to become a member of the IYC. To do so, that person must submit an official application to our office in Atlanta, Georgia. The application can be obtained from the King Center's programmatic website (www.realizingthedream.org) or by emailing Chantal Pierre, Program Associate, at cpierre@thekingcenter.org. The application process includes a resume review, reference check and personal interview. If accepted, the applicant will then be invited to join the IYC on the next available trip.



Note: Young people residing within a country visited by the IYC (e.g. Kenya, Israel) who attend or participate in an IYC event do **not** automatically become a member of the IYC. However, such individuals who decide to officially apply for the program will be given priority by program staff.

What is required of me?

Since the primary goal of an IYC trip is to provide meaningful international leadership development experiences, travel is an integral and important component of this program. Therefore, members are strongly encouraged to go on **1** trip per year minimum.

Upon returning from a trip, participants are required to submit a written debriefing report that outlines their lessons learned while abroad. Afterwards, members submit a second document in addition to the debriefing report—a proposal for their community project. Every new IYC member is required to apply their lessons learned by crafting a proposal for a practical initiative to implement in his or her own home community. These projects, which can be as large or small as the individual member chooses, must address one or more aspects of Realizing the Dream's core mission—redressing poverty, building community, and fostering peace through nonviolence. For example, a member could propose to start a tutoring program at a local school, or to create a new park clean-

up program in partnership with a local nonprofit. For more examples of the kinds of projects our members are currently working on, please visit our [website](#).

During their time in the program, IYC members are granted varying levels of membership commensurate with their amount of participation and commitment. Each level coincides with different responsibilities, as well as access to different levels of support from IYC program staff and leadership. For example, new members are required to complete one IYC trip within their first year, complete an introductory nonviolence training, and satisfy all IYC requirements both during and after the visit (i.e. full participation while abroad, debriefing report and project proposal once home) including minimal participation online (IYC blog, IYC Facebook member page, Twitter, etc.).

Some of the benefits for completing these requirements include eligibility for future trips, free IYC t-shirt and other items, discounted admittance to King Center conferences and events, and logistical support from IYC program staff on member's personal community projects (i.e. summary of your project on Realizing the Dream's website, supporting letters, donor suggestions, references, etc.). Requirements and benefits for advanced memberships are included in the member handbook (provided upon admission) and include, but are not limited to, increased participation in social media efforts and increased levels of nonviolence training certification.

Are there other opportunities to travel?

There are additional opportunities for IYC to engage our organization by joining us on 'IYC Ambassador Trips'. During these trips, selected members who are current on trip debriefing reports, community project updates and who are familiar with the mission of the IYC program can accompany Realizing the Dream as "ambassadors" for the organization.

Unlike typical IYC engagements, the focus of these trips will not be to partake in volunteer projects and nonviolence trainings, but rather to recruit additional young leaders to apply for membership in the Corps, while also gaining valuable leadership experience and knowledge about the host country. These trips are voluntary and are not considered a requirement of IYC membership.





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Application Form

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Sex: Male Female

Race/Ethnicity (optional): _____ Date of Birth (month, day and year): ____/____/____

Current Mailing Address (include street number): _____

City: _____ State (or Province): _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cellular Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____ Skype: _____

What is the best way to contact you? Phone E-mail Skype Facebook Other _____

Your Interests

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions:

- Why are you interested in applying to the International Youth Corps program?
- What are you most passionate about in life and what types of activities and/or issues interest you the most?
- In your opinion what are your talents and strengths? What are areas you would like to improve on?
- What one person do you admire and why?
- What do you hope to gain if selected to participate in our program?

Commitment

Are you willing to commit to the workload and travel requirements needed to fulfill the IYC mission?

Yes No

Are you willing to help facilitate our social media presence by contributing online through dialogue and blog postings? (i.e. Facebook, Realizing the Dream's IYC blog)

Yes No

Do you have any other activities that would conflict with these requirements?

No Yes, Explain _____

References

Please list three **non-related** references (such as mentors, youth leaders, professors, counselors, etc.) that have been a positive influence in your life and include all necessary information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

General Information

How did you hear about the IYC program?

Website Mentor/Friend (*name*): _____ Other: _____

Do you have a current passport?

Yes No

Emergency Contacts

In case of an emergency, who should we contact?

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Consent

I, _____, (International Youth Corps Member) hereby agree that everything in this application is true. I realize that if I am chosen for this program, I will need to pay my tuition prior to going on any trip. I will also be responsible for obtaining my own visa and passport. I consent to releasing Realizing the Dream, Inc. from any liabilities arising from this program.

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX:

Date Received By Office: _____ Received By (Initials): _____ Date Approved: _____

What's next?

Complete and submit this application to Chantal Pierre, Program Associate, at cpierre@thekingcenter.org, along with:

- Your updated CV (resume)
- One letter of recommendation (from a mentor, professor or employer)
- A short autobiography, and
- A profile picture of yourself (.jpeg format)

Please remember to check off each above item before submitting your application. Failure to complete this application in its entirety will delay your application process.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chantal Pierre, Program Associate, at 404.526.8970 or at cpierre@thekingcenter.org.