



## Ayusa International Fact Sheet

### **About Ayusa**

Ayusa International is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through foreign exchange, study abroad and leadership programs for high school students from the U.S. and around the world. In addition, AYUSA administers multiple high profile grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of State.

### **Ayusa History**

Ayusa was founded in 1981. Over the past 30 years, Ayusa has provided cross-cultural experiences to more than 50,000 participants.

### **Ayusa Mission**

Ayusa's mission is to create the next generation of global leaders and world citizens in a future where nations and people recognize their similarities and have an acceptance of differences.

### **Ayusa Programs**

Ayusa offers three main types of programs:

- **Global Youth Exchange**  
Ayusa is a non-profit designated by the U.S. Department of State to bring students from around the world to the U.S. for an academic year or semester. Students live in volunteer American host families and attend local high schools.
- **Study Abroad**  
Ayusa provides U.S. and Canadian high school students with the opportunity to journey abroad and immerse themselves in another language and culture. Program offerings include long-term academic programs, short-term summer programs, faculty-led customized programs, and short-term volunteer programs.
- **World Leaders**  
Ayusa offers a three-week summer leadership experience that enables promising young people from around the world to connect with one another, share ideas and participate in seminars and activities centered on global leadership. Programs take place at the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Ayusa Students**

Ayusa's student participants come from all parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and from across the U.S.

### **Ayusa Host Families**

Ayusa's volunteer American host families comprise a diverse group of families of all shapes and sizes that hail from all 50 states.

### **Ayusa Staff**

Ayusa staff has experienced cultural exchange first-hand and believes in the importance of these life-changing experiences. Most have either studied or worked abroad, hosted exchange students, and/or welcomed host brothers and sisters into their home. Ayusa provides a live person call center available for host families and students in case of an emergency - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.