



MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MEPI) CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: FY-11 STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM

- The U.S. government is bringing more than 90 students from the Middle East and North Africa to the United States this summer for five weeks of intensive leadership training as part of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).
- The program is fully funded, including international airfare, travel within the United States, accommodation, meals, and program fees.
- The program runs from June to August every year. It includes a two-day orientation in Washington D.C., a four-week academic residency program at a U.S. university or college, and a week-long educational study tour to other regions of the U.S.
- The program consists of hands-on leadership training workshops, academic sessions, site visits, community service projects, optional homestays and other opportunities for interaction with Americans peers, and other cultural activities.
- Students also participate in an alumni conference held in the Middle East or North Africa subsequent to their return to their home countries.
- Each candidate will be assigned to one of six selected host institutions/universities in the U.S. Each host institution will design its own course materials and scheduling. However, all will be designed around the theme of how leadership is conceived and practiced in different capacities (governmental, community, civil society, private sector, etc.) and in different regions of the United States.

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

2. It is critical that participants exhibit a serious interest in pursuing leadership opportunities in their home countries, and demonstrate a genuine desire to learn first hand about civic engagement, as well as the United States and its societal institutions. All students must be prepared to engage seriously in class discussions and other activities. In addition, they will be expected to take advantage of opportunities to inform and educate Americans about the cultures and societies of their home countries in non-structured gatherings, as well as in public presentations.

PARTICIPANT QUALIFICATIONS

3. Ideal candidates for the MEPI Student Leaders Program:

- a. 20 to 24 years of age;
- b. Demonstrated English language ability;
- c. Committed to returning to their home country following completion of the program;
- d. Demonstrates strong leadership potential;
- e. Indicates a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- f. Has a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- g. Demonstrates a commitment to community;
- h. Has no travel experience in the United States and limited to no study or travel experience outside home country;
- i. Is mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
- j. Is willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and active educational travel program; and,
- k. Is comfortable with campus life, sharing living accommodations while traveling with a multinational group of participants from the Middle East North Africa and with U.S. citizens, and making adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home countries.

Interested candidates can fill out the application and send it back to: KuwaitMEPI@state.gov

Deadline: January 30, 2011.