



**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING  
Intercultural Exchange Programs**

## **FLEX and YES Student of the Month Guidelines**



**Do you know an outstanding FLEX or YES student?** Each month throughout the academic year, the U.S. Department of State's FLEX and YES Program Offices select a Student of the Month for each program. Candidates are nominated by the placement organizations. Each organization may nominate one candidate per month for each program in which it has students, and the student will be considered for honors the month following the nomination.

### **Nomination Instructions:**

YFU Host Families, Area Representatives, Community Engagement Managers, and students are encouraged to submit nominations each month!

- Please send your nominations to [yfugrantscholars@yfu.org](mailto:yfugrantscholars@yfu.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month
  - Use the following format for the subject line: “[FLEX or YES] Student of the month nomination- [Student Name]”
  - Please limit each nomination to 300 words and one or two high quality photos
- Students may nominate themselves, but will need a recommendation from a host parent, area representative, or community engagement manager
- Nominations from previous months are eligible for consideration in subsequent months, but updates to previous submissions are welcome
- A strong nomination that is well-supported with clear photos and recognitions of the student's accomplishments (e.g. newspaper articles, videos, etc.) will reduce the need for follow-ups and increase the student's chance of selection!
- Include the following information, if possible:
  - The number of community service hours the student has performed
  - Impact of the student's community service
  - Number of presentations about the student's home country given
  - Specific awards or recognition the student has received
  - Any other relevant information.
- Nominations are reviewed by the US Department of State. They will consider such factors as:
  - The impact of a student's activities and accomplishments in the community and/or at school
  - How well the student acts as an ambassador from his/her country and represents his/her culture
  - Whether the student has shown a positive and thoughtful spirit within the host family and community
  - If there is evidence of the student's personal growth and development while on program

### **Recognition of Selected Students of the Month:**

- Students will receive a small prize in the mail from the US Department of State
- His/her story posted on the specific program website
  - See the following websites for previous winners:
    - FLEX: <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/future-leaders-exchange/stories>
    - YES: <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/kennedy-lugar-youth-exchange-study-yes/stories>
- His/her story shared with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, regional bureaus of the US Department of State, and United States embassies