



INTRODUCTION TO PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMS

Attention Academic Advisor:

One of your current or future students will be traveling on a People to People Student Ambassador Program this summer. People to People journeys allow students to spend 14 to 21 days exploring a new part of the world, interacting with other cultures, completing educational projects, and enjoying teambuilding activities. Student Ambassadors are chaperoned by professional educators and complete 12 hours of education and orientation with their traveling group prior to their program.

Through our educational partner, the Washington School of World Studies (WSWS), we are able to offer students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to earn an elective social studies credit equal to 120 instructional contact hours. Students must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the defined learning objectives for the course.

This high school elective semester course, Ambassadorial Studies, encompasses students' total learning experience as they prepare for and participate in a People to People Student Ambassador Program. To successfully receive credit for this course, high school students must exhibit a comprehensive range of social and academic skills, including:

- Properly conducting oneself during a cross-cultural experience, such as an overnight stay with a host family overseas
- Understanding the responsibilities of Student Ambassadors in representing their home area and promoting international understanding
- Demonstrating strong time management and record-keeping skills
- Creatively expressing knowledge of their destination and experiences before and during travel, through journal writing and other assignments
- Demonstrating understanding of American government and current events, in order to participate in true cultural exchange

The pre-travel course work requires students to work closely with their delegation's teacher-leaders to achieve academic excellence, while the travel experience provides a unique personal-growth opportunity seldom available through a traditional educational setting.

Delegation leaders will evaluate students in grades 9-12 during the pre-travel and travel components of the program; the scores for each component are combined for a final grade. The delegation leaders submit the grade and a credit completion report to the Washington School of World Studies. Each passing student then receives an official transcript from the WSWS, which will be submitted to you for consideration.

Student Ambassadors in grades 5-8 who complete the course requirements receive a "Certificate of Completion." This certificate may be presented to classroom teachers for possible "extra credit" or as documentation of work to meet state and local school district "Certificate of Academic Achievement" (CAA) requirements in reading, writing, social studies, and/or service learning. Schools will often place these certificates in a student's work portfolio as demonstration of subject-specific work samples and experiences beyond the regular classroom requirements.

The Washington School of World Studies is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS), one of six federally recognized accrediting institutions in the United States. The NAAS has reciprocity agreements with the other five accrediting institutions. The status of the WSWS as a fully accredited school can be confirmed at www.northwestaccreditation.org under *Accredited Schools Listings, Travel Study Schools*. (The WSWS is also fully accredited as a school for distance education.)

Your student can provide you with a written description of the Ambassadorial Studies course for your further information. Should you have any questions about the course or the Washington School of World Studies, please contact the WSWS at 866.794.8309 or at mail@schoolofworldstudies.org.