**Student Leaders Program**

***A Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State***

**Professional Reference Instructions**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE APPLICANT:**

Give this form to a relevant professional reference and ask them to fill out the form completely.

**Please make sure to provide your professional reference with the same first and last name and email address that you use to submit your application so that they can include the same information on their professional reference form.**

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM FOR THE PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE:**

The Student Leaders Program (SLP) is a rigorous leadership and civic engagement program for competitively selected undergraduate and graduate students between the ages of 20 and 24 from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The focus for the 2025-2026 program is Climate Change and Environmental Protection. Students are placed in U.S. universities where they complete academic coursework, develop leadership and project management skills, and expand their understanding of civil society and participatory governance processes in the United States and MENA region. The cornerstone of the program is the development of Community Engagement Plans (CEP), where each student identifies an issue/opportunity related to climate change or environmental issues that they would like to address in their communities. During the program, students will have the opportunity to meet their American peers, engage in community service activities, and meet civil society organizations.

The Student Leaders Program (SLP) is a yearlong three-part program: **pre-summer**, **summer**, and **post-summer** with the most intensive part taking place during the summer. The summer program is an intensive 4-week program, and is tentatively scheduled to take place from June 25 until July 25, 2025. **The summer program will be an in-person program in the United States.**

Upon completion of the summer program, students will implement their Community Engagement Plans and receive follow-on support, training, and professional networking opportunities, including joining the 2,000 strong MEPI Alumni network.  A competitive follow-on Accelerator Workshop may be held in the region.

**Instructions for Professional Reference:**

The Student Leaders Program features a unique kind of educational experience. This applicant will be involved with other leaders from the Middle East and North Africa region in a challenging learning environment that will require cross-cultural adjustment and an extended period of functioning as a member of a group. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Please be very honest in your assessment of the applicant to help us to determine whether the applicant is an appropriate fit for this kind of program. Please indicate your estimate of the following characteristics as to how they pertain to the applicant by marking an “X” in the appropriate box. If you wish to add comments, please do so on another sheet of paper. **Your answers will remain confidential.**

1. **Applicant Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant First Name: |  |
| Applicant Last Name: |  |
| Applicant Email Address: |  |

1. **Personal Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First Name: |  |
| Last Name: |  |
| Street Address: |  |
| City: |  |
| Country: |  |
| Telephone Number: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Place of Employment: |  |

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

How long have you known the applicant? From: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Year Year

1. **Applicant Ranking**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Applicant Quality** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Average** | **Poor** | **Unknown** |
| Consideration for and interest in others and their views |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leadership potential |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to take direction cheerfully |  |  |  |  |  |
| Takes Initiative |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sense of responsibility |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to adjust to and cope with new situations |  |  |  |  |  |
| Intellectual curiosity and imagination |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to express self |  |  |  |  |  |
| Participation in community and extracurricular activities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to follow through with projects |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Short-Answer Questions**

**Please print your responses to the following questions:**

What do you see as the strengths of this applicant? And weaknesses?

How well will the applicant be able to work with others in the Student Leaders group to resolve problems?

What challenges do you foresee the applicant might face in participating in this program?

Please comment on the applicant’s overall suitability for the program, including leadership and interpersonal skills.

***Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

*Please submit this reference form before the application deadline. Thank you!*