

## **Innovative Leadership Through Social Development**

### **GLOBAL SERVANT LEADERS / ISTANBUL CULTURAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM 2010**

In honor of Istanbul's selection as Europe's Culture Capital for 2010, Young Guru Academy (YGA) has been implementing the Global Servant Leaders / Istanbul Cultural Ambassadors Program since 2007.

Each year, YGA invites university students and NGO leaders from different countries to Istanbul for a 10 day cultural program to introduce Istanbul, Turkish culture and Turkish cuisine through tours of the city, visits to historical and cultural places, demonstrations of Turkish music, dance and art providing the participants with an unforgettable cultural experience.

Upon returning to their countries, the participants are expected to promote Istanbul and the Turkish culture at their universities, or at their organizations or volunteer for one of the sponsoring NGO's.

#### **Below are comments from previous participants regarding program.**

It was special and instructive. Inspiring and amazing.  
The speeches, the group activities and the leadership programs at Saklikoy were wonderful.  
I can't summarize how special instructive and inspiring I considered the YGA Leadership camp.  
Once in a Lifetime experience.

***Melissa Wiesner - Duke University***

It was truly an amazing experience.  
The lectures, seminars, team building exercises.  
Such an encouragement towards passionate, courageous and honest leadership is all too rare today. At YGA leadership camp I learned many new lessons.  
It was WONDERFUL.

***Kyle Beaulieu - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill***

I'm truly thankful for having this opportunity to participate in this program. It is a dream journey one can ever have in Istanbul. Some of the experiences I can really recall them once in a lifetime. It is wonderful to feel the Turkish hospitality and the food is amazing. I love that we can actually make the traditional art craft. Moreover, to sit in a local tea house where locals go was so nice! The experience, the people have made some sort of connection between the city and us. The connection is not going to end with the trip but will continue long after. Coming to Leadership Camp, the speakers were very practical and it was great to meet the dream partners who make their dreams come true.

**Cynthia Wei, National Cheng-chi University of Taiwan**

" MERHABA,

The opportunity to be a Global Servant Leader is one of those experiences that comes once in a lifetime. I traveled across the world to a place and culture that was foreign to me, without any expectations, but with hopes to shape my thoughts of the Turkish Culture. If there was ever a place one wanted to visit in Turkey and dive into the culture, you better believe YGA had it on the "things to do list" as well as the reasoning and history behind them.

The idea behind GSL program is to bring socially aware young adults from around the world to built bridges together to better understand the inter-workings of NGOs and how young adults could get involved. YGA has the right idea about mobilizing young adults around the world and making sure they are socially aware. My experiences with GSL this year has prepared me to appreciate and work harder to make the organization City Year better. Thank You Young Guru Academy."

**Paul Sterling, City Year-New York**



**Program:****June 12 to June 24 2010.****Arriving Istanbul on June 13<sup>th</sup> Leaving Istanbul on June 24<sup>th</sup>**

The participants will stay at the homes of YGA graduates.

The participants will be accompanied by YGA graduates on the daily activities.

The program includes visits to historical and cultural places, cooking Turkish food with a Turkish chef, Turkish art demonstrations and attend music shows.

The participants will also attend YGA's leadership camp in Saklikoy. They will participate in leadership workshops given by Turkish leaders and share their own social change projects with YGA students.

**Program Cost:**

Participation fee per attendee is \$950 payable to YGA.

Young Guru Academy will cover all meals, accommodations, transportation fees in Istanbul, all cultural and historical tour fees, and Saklikoy leadership camp fees.

**The American Turkish Society** will sponsor 2 participant's roundtrip airline tickets from New York.

**Young Guru Academy** will sponsor 1 participant's roundtrip airline ticket from North Carolina.

**Program Application:**

Please send your CV with a picture along with answering the questions below to [aysepam@yahoo.com](mailto:aysepam@yahoo.com) by April 4, 2010. The answers should be no more than 500 words.

- 1- Why do you want to participate in Global Servant Leaders Program?
- 2- Do you volunteer for non-profit organizations? If so, briefly describe the organization's mission and your role?
- 3- What type of a leader are you? Describe a situation where you led a team-oriented effort?
- 4- If you could have dinner with only three people who would you select and why?

For more information on Global Servant Leaders / Istanbul Cultural Ambassadors Program please visit: <http://www.yga.org.tr/en/Ike.asp>

For more information on Young Guru Academy please visit: <http://www.yga.org.tr/en/>

YGA is a 501(c) (3) non profit organization based in Istanbul, Turkey and Raleigh, NC. Our mission is to select, educate, train and inspire creative, innovative and socially responsible leaders. YGA graduates develop and implement social change projects in different areas of social, economic and education development in Turkey and in the United States.

**WE WISH YOU A WONDERFUL JOURNEY**