

Student and Teacher Exchange Programs with AFS-USA

As part of its educational mission, **The American Turkish Society** has partnered with **American Field Services (AFS-USA)** on a number of teacher and student exchange programs. This partnership allows the two organizations to further their mutual goal of enhancing cross-cultural understanding and strengthening educational ties between Turkey and the United States.

Teacher Exchange Programs

The chance to visit and work in another country provides teachers with significant professional development, and the benefits of this cultural exchange have a multiplier effect through their work with students in their home countries. AFS-USA and The American Turkish Society jointly launched the **Global Educators Program** in 2002 to give Turkish teachers the opportunity to spend a semester or more in the United States observing classroom methods, learning first-hand about American culture, and sharing their own experiences and culture with students and teachers in the U.S. The Society and AFS-USA are currently developing a new joint initiative aimed at providing a larger group of Turkish educators with a more intensive professional development experience.

Past Participants

- 2003 Onur Sarıışık
*Howe International Magnet
Schenectady, NY*
- 2004 - Neslihan Bayhan
2005 *Manchester Elementary School
Manchester, ME*
Ersin Haspolatlı
*St. Andrews Episcopal School
Austin, TX*
- 2007 Figen Yağlı
*Prairie High School
Vancouver, WA*
- 2009 Orhan Dolapçı
*Lanier Middle School
Houston, TX*
Gonca Canyurt
*Fall River High School
Fall River, WI*



"I never wanted to live in a cocoon. I need to improve myself, both personally and professionally. So, I took this great opportunity and came to the United States."

Onur Sarıışık, New York, 2003

"During my time here, I have taught my students Turkish words, I have shared my love of mathematics, and I was also able to demonstrate how to make Turkish cuisine to 1st and 3rd graders."

Gonca Canyurt, Wisconsin, 2009

Student Exchange Programs

The American Turkish Society supports AFS-USA's **Faces of America program**, which provides scholarships that enable low-income, underserved youth in the U.S. to participate in a summer program in Turkey. The Faces of America program identifies and recruits minority and low-income students with the potential to thrive in a foreign study program. Participation in international exchange introduces these young people to new cultures and languages and broadens their horizons.

About American Field Services (AFS-USA)



AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world. Since the AFS began offering international exchange opportunities in 1919, more than 370,000 people have graduated from its programs. Over 13,000 students, young adults and teachers participate in international exchange with AFS each year in more than 50 countries.



Members and friends wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution to The American Turkish Society's educational programs may contact Selen Uçak, Executive Director, at 212.583.7614 or selen.ucak@americanturkishsociety.org. For more information, please visit www.americanturkishsociety.org.