

Chilean Youth Ambassadors in Washington-2011



Youth Ambassadors help clean up Ravenna Park, Seattle (event sponsored by Earth Corps)

In September-October 2011, the Washington Partners hosted and arranged a program for six high-school-age Chilean Youth Ambassadors (YAs) and their accompanying mentor. All the YAs and their mentor had homestays with local families. YA host families had high school children in the family. The YA program was funded by the U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and the US Embassy in Chile, and administered by Partners of the Americas. This was the fourth group of Chilean YAs hosted by the Washington Partners; the other groups came in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

The 2011 Youth Ambassadors were Gabriel Reyes, Stephanie Santibanez, Rosario Ostria, Jorge Yanez, Rose Vilca, Juan Pablo Gutierrez. Their accompanying adult mentor was Fresia Lucero.

Host families: Linda Harris and Paula Laschober-mentor. YAs-Loren McPhillips and Susan Sanchez, Don and Andrea McCord, Hector and Barbara Garcia, Peter and Michelle Kline.

Their principal host school was Roosevelt High School (RHS) in Seattle, where each was assigned a local student mentor. Activities at RHS included visits to a business training class, the school store run by students, Spanish class, student leadership class, and global studies class.

Other learning activities included visits to:

- Boys and Girls Club-teen leadership, apprenticeships, work readiness skills
- Earth Corps-environmental protection, and participation in a local park cleanup day where they helped clear invasive non-native vegetation
- Seattle Youth Commission meeting-local teen leadership and civic participation
- Microsoft Visitor Center-business
- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church-food bank, YAs helped pack and hand out food
- El Centro de la Raza-Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Program and afterschool program
- Seattle City Council-met with Councilmembers, civic engagement
- King County Courthouse-justice system
- Washington Community Alliance for Self-Help, Ventures Store-small business

- University of Washington, Certificate of International Studies in Business-Spanish track, business leadership training
- Eastside Catholic High School-shadowed students, attended Spirit Day (before homecoming)
- C-89.5/KNHC, radio station owned by Seattle Public Schools and run mostly by students at Nathan Hale High School-radio and TV broadcasting course
- Celebrate Healthy Youth conference, Nathan Hale High School-drug/alcohol use prevention