What is the Student Leaders Exchange?

The Student Leaders Exchange (SLE) is a two-week study visit in which a select group of 12 outstanding next-generation leaders – nationally recognized, just-graduated-from-high-school students – experiences China like few others. SLE participants have extraordinary insider access to travel to China to learn firsthand of China’s successes and challenges, and to gain insights into China’s present, past, and future.

Now in its 15th year, SLE is run by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (NCUSCR), a nonprofit educational organization that encourages understanding of China and the United States between citizens of both countries.
**2018 SLE Participants will...**

- Enjoy exceptional opportunities to engage with Chinese students
- Live with Chinese families to experience daily life in a Chinese home
- Delve into China’s contemporary culture, history, and society through briefings with China experts and visits to important institutions
- Take in the sights of modern and ancient China

**Why should I travel to China?**

The United States' relationship with China is its most important bilateral relationship, and its importance will only increase in all spheres of life. Educating emerging American leaders about China not only benefits them, but also enhances mutual understanding between our countries.

There are any number of issues – climate change, energy security, international trade and economics, terrorism, nuclear nonproliferation, to name just a few – that our countries must work together on if the efforts are going to contribute to a meaningful solution. What could be more vital, then, than introducing the United States' future leaders to China?

SLE will jump start participants' understanding of China, so that they will be more prepared and informed when the time comes to make decisions that will affect not only the bilateral relationship, but the world.

**Who is the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations?**

**NCUSCR** is the leading American nonprofit devoted to building constructive and durable relationships between the United States and China. Founded in 1966, NCUSCR first came to broad national attention in 1972, when it organized the **Chinese Ping Pong Team’s visit to the United States** – a major component of what commonly became known as "Ping Pong Diplomacy."

For the **past five decades**, through its dialogues, exchanges, and programs, the National Committee has carried out its mission in the belief that sound and productive Sino-American relations serve vital American and world interests.
What else do I need to know about SLE?

**Eligibility:** All applicants MUST be 2018 Presidential Scholars or Regeneron STS Finalists. Six boys and six girls will be selected in total.

**Requirements:** Participants must meet all deadlines and be available for the full three-day orientation and study tour in China. See the full calendar below.

**Cost:** Each 2018 Presidential Scholar selected for SLE is asked to contribute $900, which goes towards covering a portion of the airfare. The National Committee, its Chinese partner, and sponsors will cover the balance of airfare, as well as the cost of housing, activities, health insurance, and meals (which comes to well over $3,500). Some travel assistance will be available to subsidize those unable to contribute the full amount.

Other out-of-pocket costs for 2018 Presidential Scholars selected for SLE are nominal, limited to A) incidental costs in China, e.g., mementos and gifts, an occasional meal, snack, etc., B) any costs associated with passport applications/renewal, C) the cost of sending passport and visa application materials to New York, where visas will be processed, D) the cost of various gifts for Chinese host families and host siblings, and E) any special arrangement outside the SLE plan that incurs additional expense.

**Itinerary:** The tentative schedule includes visits to Beijing, Guiyang, Beichuan, and Chengdu, but is subject to change.

**More information** on the program, including a sample itinerary and past participant reflections, is available on the SLE webpage.
Key Dates and Deadlines

APPLICATION & SELECTION
June 3: Written applications and video submissions due
June 6: Presidential Scholars notified

PARTICIPANT/PARENT MEETING
June 25: Parent Information Session in Washington, DC

Note: We will hold 1-2 conference calls to cover the same information covered at the D.C. information session.

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION & TRIP
July 7-10: Mandatory Orientation in Menlo Park, CA
July 10: Depart for China
July 25: Return to the United States

SLE Partners and Sponsors

NCUSCR works in partnership with the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), a Chinese organization directly affiliated with the PRC Ministry of Education.

The National Committee is grateful to the Yihai Education Group for its generous financial support of the 2018 SLE.

Questions?

Please direct your inquiries to Jessica Bissett at jbissett@ncuscr.org or 646-604-8012.

APPLY NOW