

# Servas YOUTH!

Summer 2013

## Summer Youth Conferences:

- Alicante, Spain  
August 25-September 1 *Young People*
- Berlin, Germany August 17-August 22 *Friends and Families*
- 2014 TBA!!!
- We are looking for volunteers! Host an SY Event, you won't regret it!

## The Team:

Gonzalo Forero	SYLE
Janek Dzierzawsk	Technology
Nauman Naseem	Local Projects
Reut Harel	Conference organizer
Vivica Xiong	Program Development
Heather Mason	Outreach, Chair
Bina Sengar	

Created from the summer conferences in Poland in 2012, the Servas International Youth Team consists of six active members from different regions of the world, working together to spread, support, and grow Servas membership among the young.

## We are the New SI Youth TEAM!

Hello to all our friends,

The new Servas Youth Team has been working hard to involve more youth in Servas, and more Servas in youth!

We meet on the first Saturday of each month via video-conference using google chat. It's nice to be able to see each other's faces while we talk. Being the youth team of course we have a lot of fun, but still manage to get some work done... See below for our list of goals and accomplishments.

Our SYLE coordinator, **Gonzalo Forero of Columbia**, is proud to report that he has helped coordinate over six SYLE's so far! (What is SYLE? See below.) One of the most important innovations of the SYLE program has been a new organizational chart

created by Gonzalo, which has streamlined the planning process for each SYLE. The SYLE handbook has been updated as well, into a more user friendly format. To learn more about SYLE, write to us at: [youth@servas.org](mailto:youth@servas.org).

**Reut Harel of Israel** and **Nauman Naseem of Pakistan** have been hard at work coordinating future SY conferences. See the bulleted list to the left for the list of Youth Conferences coming up! Stay tuned for more information.

**Vivica Xiong from Hong Kong** is ever-ready to keep the team on track. And we are lucky to have the expertise of **Poland's Janek Dzierzawski** working on technology for the team. Check out the video he put together! We

are waiting on the new Servas website, and the Servas Youth page will be updated at that time. In the meantime, you can stay current with the team on facebook. ([www.facebook.com/servasyouth](http://www.facebook.com/servasyouth))

We are working well and running pretty smoothly, however we have a lot of work to do and a lot to learn. We are lucky to have the help of experienced Servas members, like Pablo and Ann, among many others. Thanks for your support, everyone!

Please join us any time, or feel free to write to us at: [youth@servas.org](mailto:youth@servas.org).

- **Heather Mason (USA)**

## Some Accomplishments and Goals, too!

- SYLE handbook updated with new organizational chart included.
- Youth Local Contact handbook updated.
- Over six SYLE's organized!
- A dropbox database created, with all SY documents accessible in one place.
- Facebook page created specially for SY.
- Video publication created. See link!
- Goal to expand SYLE to more participants and languages.
- To have the SY website updated.
- To organize the Youth Travel Award Fund.
- To implement fundraising for SY goals and activities.
- To determine the locations for the next three International Youth events.
- To involve more youth from Far-east, Asia, and Africa.
- Goal to include more members of all ages in Servas Youth events and activities!

## Servas Youth Language Experience (SYLE)

**SYLE seeks to strengthen the integration of local and national groups, as well as promote the participation of youth in Servas.**

**Servas Youth VIDEO!!!**

<http://youtu.be/bZVx7f3DtEw>

**Share it!**

### Objectives

- Education - learning a language.
- Provide a SERVAS cultural exchange experience for the traveler and his/her hosts.

### Participants

- Youth travelers.
- Youth Contact (YC) and National Secretary (NS) of the country of the traveler and the host country.
- Team coordinator of the host country.
- Servas hosts (including day hosts).
- Family and friends 'not Servas'.
- Servas International SYLE Coordinator and Chair person (Gonzalo and Heather.)

### Procedure

1. Application: Aspiring traveler and aspiring organizing team communicate their interest to participate.
2. Application: Interview and acceptance by the national secretary and contact the host country, complete and submit the application form and letter of commitment.
3. SYLE begins: After approval of application of SYLE, send the Servas Letter of Introduction stamped (electronically) and start communication between the traveler and the organizing team in order to develop an agenda that suits the needs and interests of each part.
4. SYLE Development: Stay four weeks in

the host country performing the planned agenda. During this stage it is important to maintain communication with all parts involved. The agenda can change, remember that it is a volunteer job.

5. SYLE Completion: Upon completion of the SYLE both parts must submit an evaluation report to the NS of both countries to evaluate the benefits, inconveniences, and overall experience. It must be reported to the International Youth Committee (youth@servas.org)

Travelers should inform their YC and NS of their return to their home country. Additionally, the participant should plan to make a presentation to your National Group (NG) on the SYLE experience.

### Profile of the young traveler

- Age between 18 and 35 years.
- Active participation in Servas. In case of absence or difficulty in the operation of Servas in your country, we will consider their potential participation in Servas.
- Capacity to communicate in the language of the host country.
- Attitude empathetic and open to diverse cultural experiences.
- Willingness to constantly interact with a large number of people for one month duration
- Ability to adapt to host conditions.

### Profile of the coordinating team of the host country

- Interest in getting involved with Servas Youth.
- Responsibility to:
  - Coordinate and confirm the traveler's stay with their respective hosts.
  - Organize and ensure the development of the activities planned in the SYLE agenda.
  - Maintain ongoing contact with participants of SYLE (hosts, young traveler, language facilitators and other activities).
  - Experience as a Servas traveler or host.
  - Dynamic, patient, commitment, capacity and ability to communicate with the various participants of SYLE (via email, phone, Skype).

**Can your Servas group host a SYLE? Would you like to participate as a traveler? Contact the Youth Team!**

### Follow the Song!

[www.followthesong.com](http://www.followthesong.com)

[youtube.com/followthesong](http://youtube.com/followthesong)

Thanks so much for the support! We would love for an article to go out to Servas families, we still need places in Ecuador near Quito or Guayaquil and Columbia near Cartagena.

As far as the blog and project, it is going very well! We have plenty of information at [www.followthesong.com](http://www.followthesong.com) if

you go to "the idea" page you can get some words or in the song blog you can find stories and song downloads. We also have videos on [youtube.com/followthesong](http://youtube.com/followthesong) if you want to look at those. Thanks so much for putting us out there, we really appreciate it! :) Carolyn and Dan

Questions/comments/say hi???

Email

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Chair:

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