Exchange Visitor Program Advocacy Talking Points

Benefits to the U.S. on the national and local levels

Economic Impact

Exchange programs strengthen the U.S. economy:

- Exchange visitors bring resources to U.S. communities, including program fees and visitors’ spending cash. Just 3 programs - the Summer Work Travel (SWT), Intern, and Trainee programs - contribute over 1.1 billion dollars to the U.S. economy each year.
- The SWT, Intern, Trainee, and Camp Counselor programs operate at no cost to U.S. taxpayers; participants pay fees that cover the costs associated with oversight and administration of the program.
- SWT and Camp Counselor programs supplement local workforce in areas with small year-round populations, which enables local businesses to stay open, and to operate longer and at a greater scale.

National Security

Exchange programs support U.S. national security & foreign policy interests:

- Exchange Programs facilitate global engagement with a broad public diplomacy reach (participants come from more than 190 countries).
- Exchange Programs make it possible to engage with citizens of countries that are of strategic importance to the U.S. foreign policy (e.g., Brazil, China, Russia, China, Turkey).
- Exchange Programs advance U.S. leadership and interests around the world. On average, more than 75% of participants return home with a more positive view of America.

Mutual Understanding

Exchange programs increase mutual understanding:

- Exchange participants learn about the U.S. while Americans in host communities across the U.S. learn about other countries and cultures.
- Exchange participants’ complete programs with a better, more nuanced, and more favorable impression of the U.S., its culture and its people.
- Exchange programs help shape current and future leaders. In fact, one in three current World Leaders participated in an exchange program.
Benefits to Exchange Program Participants

The Exchange Visitor Program enables a broad, diverse population of international students and young professionals to experience American culture first-hand.

- The ability to work (SWT, Camp Counselor) or complete a paid internship/traineeship (Intern, Trainee), offsets costs associated with an immersive cultural exchange experience in the U.S. (e.g., international airfare, room and board, travel within the U.S.).
- Exchange Programs help participants achieve personal and professional goals. For example, 96.3% of interns and trainees gained valuable work experience for future career opportunities.
- Exchange Programs broaden participants' understandings of other cultures and their own capacities. In fact, 93.1% of SWT participants reported learning how to be more independent.

Your Story

Share your experience with Exchange Programs:

- For American supporters:
  - Impact on American businesses, employees/colleagues, and the wider community.
  - Personal stories about breaking down stereotypes/cultural barriers.
  - Lasting international connections that benefit you and your business.
- If you're joined by program participants/alumni, they can share:
  - How the program helped you achieve specific personal and professional goals.
  - Exchange experience in the U.S. would otherwise be inaccessible due to cost.