YWIB Ambassador Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the time frame for the Young Women In Bio (YWIB) Ambassador program?
The YWIB Ambassador program is a newly launched program that rolled out in April 2020. The applications for the 2020-21 school year were made available on May 1 and will be open for submission to YWIB through June 30, 2020. Our YWIB Chapters will review the applications submitted to them and selected Ambassadors will be announced by August 15, 2020.

Girls who are selected as YWIB Ambassadors will help promote STEM activities in their community and work with local YWIB Chapter leaders to help with local YWIB Chapter activities, including YWIB Online activities, and help to develop, promote and attend local STEM events. These events are different for each Chapter and typically roll out during the school year (September through June). We hope that Ambassadors will begin engaging in local activities by mid-to-end of September 2020 and continue their ambassadorship until the earlier of June 15, 2021, or through the end of their school year.

In addition, YWIB Ambassadors will serve as a YWIB advocate at the YWIB National level, and may participate in advisory forums, help promote YWIB and STEM activities to girls across the country and in Canada, and assist in organizing our annual Spring into STEM Festival and other national activities.

What is the estimated time commitment on a weekly/monthly basis for YWIB Ambassadors?
While there is no set time commitment, we estimate that monthly involvement in this program may be between 3-10 hours per month during their term, which could include activities at the YWIB chapter local level and/or National level.

At the YWIB local level, YWIB Chapter leaders plan for and execute a minimum of four events in their region each school year, . These events will range between online and in-person activities (as allowable especially while social distancing measures are in place*). Typically, YWIB will coordinate a wide variety of in-person and online events, such as company visits, hands-on activities, panel discussions and participation in larger, regional STEM events where the YWIB Ambassador can help plan and/or promote these activities. The YWIB Ambassador may also participate in internal YWIB Chapter meetings (to be determined by each chapter) and/or help in other ways as determined by the applicable YWIB Chapter and YWIB Ambassador.

Can YWIB Ambassador involvement be weekend work or around school/extracurricular activities?
YWIB National and each YWIB Chapter leadership committee will work with the selected YWIB Ambassador to figure out a time to meet regularly, either monthly or bi-monthly, and the scope of involvement in YWIB Chapter and National activities. Most YWIB in-person events are held during the week and during the school day, but some may occur on the weekend. YWIB Ambassadors can support these activities through social media promotion and other creative ways. We will try to work with each YWIB Ambassador to develop a schedule that works around her other school/extracurricular activities.

What is expected of YWIB Ambassadors?
Participation in the YWIB Ambassador program is all what you make of it and we hope you make the most of it! YWIB Ambassadors will exemplify YWIB’s mission to empower today’s girls to become tomorrow’s leaders, helping them affect positive change in the worlds of science, technology, engineering, and math. YWIB Ambassadors will help us to champion STEM and engaging in STEM-related activities to young girls from elementary school through high school in their local area and nationally.

(* In person events and activities will resume according to CDC/Government guidelines)
YWIB Ambassador engagement may vary from region to region. As we have set out in our YWIB Ambassador Program backgrounder, we are selecting YWIB Ambassadors who can help us carry out our mission and we are looking for high school girls who:

- **Demonstrate a passion for STEM** – Is actively participating in STEM activities in their school or community or taking related classes to pursue a STEM-related career
- **Regularly enhances her own education in STEM** – Perhaps has launched some creative project in their home or in school? Or joined a local organization to learn more about a particular topic. Maybe they regularly visit some STEM-related site or participate in a local, national organization
- **Help to educate others about STEM opportunities, including local YWIB Chapter events** – May have participated in past YWIB or other STEM-related events and encouraged others to also.
- **Is interested in working with YWIB to develop and promote STEM outreach initiatives, including via our YWIB Online and YWIB Teachers platforms, other online efforts and social media channels** – Is interested in informing YWIB activities, such as suggesting content, developing new ways to create or promote content to YWIB target audiences, or conceive of new and creative ways to reach and motivate young girls to pursue STEM-related fields.
- **Networks with STEM leaders in her community** – Has connected or met with local STEM leaders and learned about this person’s contributions or career paths; or has created an opportunity for others to meet key STEM leaders and learn more.

We would love for our YWIB Ambassadors to continue to support and be a resource to YWIB, even after their respective terms. We plan on staying in touch, and continuing to engage, with our YWIB Ambassador alumnæ as they continue their path in STEM.

**How will YWIB National select the YWIB Ambassador who will be awarded the US$1,000 scholarship at the end of this year’s program?**

At the end of the school year, each YWIB Ambassador will summarize how she has embodied the YWIB spirit and her contributions to YWIB at the local chapter and national levels. Each YWIB Ambassador should track her work throughout the term, as pulled together in a presentation (format to be determined) to be submitted to YWIB National. Your local YWIB Chapter leaders may help brainstorm and/or guide her throughout the year. YWIB National will announce our YWIB Ambassador scholarship winner after the program for the 2020-2021 school year has closed.

**How will announcements about selection of YWIB Ambassadors by made?**

YWIB Ambassadors will be evaluated and selected internally. The applicable local YWIB Chapter will reach out via email or phone to the selected applicant on or before August 15, 2020. YWIB National will announce publicly the YWIB Ambassadors selected for the 2020-2021 school year once all such YWIB Ambassadors have been informed by the local YWIB Chapters.

**Due to COVID-19, teachers may not be able to help with applications and recommendation letters might be hard to obtain. Can students complete the application alone?**

Applicants should do their best to fill out completely the YWIB Ambassador application. Ambassadors can fill out and submit the application on their own or with another person (parent, mentor, teachers, etc.), whatever works for them. We will certainly take into account any hardships, but in order to work with minors, YWIB will require approval to participate by a parent or legal guardian.

**How many recommendation letters do the students need? Suggestions on whom they should contact to receive these recommendations?**

Only one recommendation is needed per application. This reference will serve as someone who can attest to the passion and drive of the applicant and their ongoing involvement in STEM activities.
ABOUT YOUNG WOMEN IN BIO (YWIB)
Young Women In Bio (YWIB) gives girls today the inspiration and support they need to become tomorrow’s leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). We strive to provide education and hands-on experience in STEM, as well as share our passion for all scientific fields. Through 13 chapters across the United States and Canada, YWIB partners with leading companies, universities, hospitals, and other organizations to host highly engaging, educational, and motivational programs for young girls interested in STEM. To learn more, visit: www.womeninbio.org/ywib

YWIB is part of Women In Bio (WIB), with chapters nationwide and in Canada. WIB is a nonprofit volunteer organization that promotes diversity and inclusion for women in the life sciences and beyond. To learn more, visit: www.womeninbio.org