



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING  
Intercultural Exchange Programs

## Alma Mater Email Template For Volunteers

### ACTION ITEM: EMAIL

**Subject Line:** Alumni Update, Class of <<YEAR>>

Date

Dear <<Principal Last Name>>,

My name is <<Name>> and I am a <<Year Graduated (i.e. 2003)>> alumnus. I wanted to introduce myself and let you know what I have been up to since graduating from <<School Name>>.

*[See bottom of letter for suggestions on how to personalize what you've been up to].*

I am also a volunteer with Youth For Understanding USA (YFU), one of the world's oldest, largest, and most respected nonprofit student exchange organizations. Right now, I'm helping to place international students in supportive communities in select areas as well as introducing summer and yearlong exchange programs to American teens nationwide and I can't imagine a better fit than <<School Name>>. Would you be willing to have someone from YFU make a presentation about study abroad or hosting opportunities, or open your school to our exchange students this year?

Welcoming exchange students at <<School>> can help to combat stereotypes, enhance diversity and bring social studies alive. In a world where a country's reality may not match what we see in social media and YouTube, personal interaction across cultures has never been more relevant or necessary. Fellow educators, employers, parents and alumni all agree that the benefits of international exchange reach far beyond the year, semester or summer that a student spends abroad. YFU students return as young adults who are more independent, competent, confident, and possess a deeper understanding of their own family and country. They also discover that the YFU experience opens doors for many years to come, greatly enhancing educational and professional opportunities.

I'm an advocate for YFU and its mission and want to see students of my alma mater reap the benefits of this program. Please reach out to me if your school is willing to work with YFU. Thank you for paving the way for the next generation and transforming lives every day.

Sincerely,

<<First Name>>

<<Class of \_\_\_\_>>

<<Full Name>>

<<Email>>

<<Telephone>>

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### **Help personalize your letter by working in some of the suggestions below:**

- Where you went to college/university and what you studied, if you went on a Gap Year, etc. Particularly relevant if you had a teacher, course, exchange student who inspired or impacted your post high school studies/travel/career/decision to volunteer with YFU.
- Share a favorite high school memory/lesson from a teacher, course or a particular school experience that meant a lot to you.
- Tell a reason that your alma mater/community is a good place for a foreign student. Ask that they support foreign exchange and the benefits it will provide the school. Share anything in particular that makes the school and community a particularly good match for welcoming/promoting study abroad.