YFU USA *welcomes a new group of International Exchange students to the US!*

Suchawdee (16 yrs old/Thailand) studies at a school that specializes in English language instruction. Besides studying English, she enjoys studying science. She has always been curious about other cultures and countries, especially those of the West. She is greatly looking forward to her exchange year in the USA! Her main hobbies are swimming and staying physically fit.

Christina (15 yrs old/Denmark) is a spirited and sporty girl who has a SLEP score of 56. She not only plays badminton but also coaches some of the younger members of her badminton club. She enjoys this opportunity to be a leader and would like to continue playing the sport while here. She also enjoys other sports like tennis, squash and basketball. Her father was an exchange student to the US and she has been able to travel quite a bit with her family, including a few trips to visit his host family.

Aapo (16 yr old/Finland) not only enjoys ice hockey but also an ice-less, skate-less version invented by the Swedes called Floorball...then we have swimming, table tennis, workouts at the gym, tennis and badminton...need we go on in the sports department? For we still need to mention his love of computers, family, school (especially the sciences), television documentaries. ..you get the picture. Aapo is intelligent and insiteful and can offer his host family a myriad of conversation topics. Please note Aapo has a fish allergy.

Pongpanot (15 yr old/Thailand) is an outgoing young man. He comes from a suburb of Bangkok and attends a large school where he is a member of the English club. Other hobbies include basketball and swimming. When Pongpanot is not busy studying or practising sports, he enjoys meditation, drawing pictures or making sculptures. He is excited about all the opportunities awaiting him during his exchange year.

Hyo-Won (16 yr old/Korea) is an outgoing boy with an engaging personality. He enjoys the time he spends with his friends and is a leader in the classroom by helping them with their studies. Hyo-Won knows how to play the piano and the harmonica. He likes sports such as swimming and basketball and is a member of his school's bowling club. Recently he has become interested in skateboarding too. While in the US, he is would like to get involved in school activities and join various clubs.

Eun-Hea (15 yr old female) is a friendly and cheerful girl who is a leader among her peers. She scored a 51 on her SLEP test. She likes outdoor activities and is a member of the Korean Girl Scouts. While here, she would like to continue playing the flute and join the school band or orchestra. Eun-Hea loves to travel and mountain climb with her family. Some of her other hobbies include reading, writing in her journal and swimming. She is both nervous and excited about her upcoming journey to the US.

Jitrekha, also known as "Toon", is a 16 yr old girl from northern Thailand. Her region is home to one of Thailand's most beautiful Buddha monuments. Toon is a girl scout and participates in a cooking club. In America, Toon hopes to play volleyball and/or tennis. Toon is very grateful for her chance to be an exchange student in the US!

Ha-eun is a cheerful and bright 16 yr old girl from Korea, who scored a 60 on her SLEP test! While in the US, she would like to continue her practicing in music by playing the piano or violin. She would also like to take taekwondo classes if possible. Ha-Eun loves to write and is editor of her school bulletin as well as on student council. A good student, she takes her studies very seriously and thinks her year in the US will help her achieve her academic & career goals.

Punyanut (15 yr old/Thailand) fills her free time by playing on the computer, surfing the Internet, playing badminton and collecting telephone cards. She loves playing Ta-grau (Thai ball game), and also taking photos. Traveling with her family and visiting relatives is special for her. Her favorite foods include pizza, pasta, spaghetti and seafood. In school she is a part of the English program, where many classes are taught in English. Her other favorite classes are science and math. Punyanut wants to be an exchange student to become a part of a new family, experience a new culture, and improve her English.

Anna (17 yr old/Finland) is a talented pianist and would like to continue playing while in the States. She also breakdances, kick boxes, swims, jogs, skis and, for downtime, listens to and makes music, paints and writes. Her parents have instilled a love of nature in Anna which she brings to life in practicing vegetarianism (with the exception of fish). She's considerate and calm and looks forward to experiencing life the way you see it...

Charnsit, who goes by just "Sit" (15 yr old/Thailand), is a well rounded young man with many interests. He plays the xylophone, for instance, together with his sister, who plays the cymbolo, for friends and family. He is said to be quite good at it. Other hobbies include collecting stamps, swimming, badminton and basketball. Sit belongs to a music club and a junior soldiers club at school. In the future, Sit wants to become a diplomat.