What is the cost of the program?
Travel, lodging, and meal expenses for each Fellow are paid by the American Philatelic Society. Travel costs are paid for an accompanying parent or guardian (for Fellows who are not yet 18 years old). Members of the Society donate funds to the YPLF program and without their generous support; the program would not be possible.

Who can apply?
All young adult philatelists between the ages of 16 and 24 are eligible for the YPLF program. To apply for the YPLF Class of 2021, applicants must be at least 16 years of age but may not be older than 24 as of August 1, 2020.

How do I apply?
Complete an application form, write an essay, and obtain two letters of recommendation. Finalists will be interviewed by a team of judges. Application materials can be downloaded at: https://stamps.org/YPLF.
All application materials for the Class of 2021 Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship must be postmarked by May 15, 2020, and should be sent to:

American Philatelic Society
YPLF Selection Committee
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA, 16823

Fellows will be selected by May 31, 2020.

For more information and to print an application, visit the website at stamps.org/YPLF

Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship
American Philatelic Society
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-933-3810
education@stamps.org

The American Philatelic Society has non-profit tax-exempt status under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

Creating philatelic leaders of tomorrow by connecting them with the leaders of the philatelic world today.
YPLF Fellows
The Next Generation of Philatelic Leaders

The Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship (YPLF) program connects young stamp collectors between the ages of 16 and 24 with knowledgeable philatelic leaders and access to unique learning experiences.

What is YPLF?
The Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship program was founded by the American Philatelic Society in 2009 to identify and support the best and brightest aspiring young philatelists. The program pays the expenses for exceptional young collectors to attend APS national shows and the APS Summer Seminar on Philately held at the American Philatelic Center.

What is the goal of YPLF?
The Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship creates philatelic leaders of tomorrow by connecting them with the leaders of the philatelic world today.

What do Fellows do?
During an intensive, year-long journey through the world of collecting, YPLF Fellows will visit the most exciting places in United States philately with other enthusiastic young stamp collectors.

I loved it when people came up to me at shows to share something about their collections or to explain why a particular item they bought from the YPLF booth interested them. For example, a customer showed us a letter (postal history item) displayed in his collection. He transcribed the letter’s message and researched the backgrounds of the sender and recipient. In little moments like these you can learn a lot about philatelic material from both collector and seller viewpoints.

Dani Leviss, Class of 2018

During the year Fellows will:
• Receive a one year APS membership
• Meet and make friends with Fellows and alumni Fellows
• Choose a track upon which to focus a year of study
• Learn from an adult mentor and other philatelic leaders
• Complete and present a research project on a chosen philatelic topic
• Operate the YPLF booth at APS shows
• Support youth education efforts in the youth area at APS shows
• Interact with stamp collectors from around the United States

Fellows will travel to:
• 2 APS StampShowS
• American Philatelic Center for APS Summer Seminar on Philately
• APS Winter/Spring Meeting

What is a Fellowship Track?
Upon acceptance into the YPLF program, Fellows choose a specific track upon which to focus their year of study. In each track, Fellows work with mentors to learn more about their chosen aspect of philately. The experience culminates in a year-long project presented at StampShow 2021.

Tracks and Projects Include:
• Author Track - Choose a philatelic topic and write an article for publication
• Curator Track - Create a museum-style exhibit
• Dealer Track - Develop a business plan
• Analyst Track - Conduct technical analysis of philatelic items
• Designer Track - Display philatelic artwork at a national stamp show
• Exhibitor Track - Choose a stamp topic and build a philatelic exhibit that tells a story

Additional Tracks and projects are developed to match the needs and interests of individual participants.

Important Dates
August 20-23, 2020 - 2021 YPLF Class meets at the APS StampShow in Hartford Connecticut.

June 22-25, 2021 - Fellows attend the Summer Seminar on Philately in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

August 12-15, 2021 - The fellowship concludes with presentations at the APS StampShow in Chicago, Illinois.

I am certain that philately has a bright future and feel very honored to be able to foster it for tomorrow.

Ruhit Sinha, Class of 2019

A year ago, I had no clue that such a large community of stamp collectors existed, and I am now proud to be among the APS ranks.

Tasos Kalfas, Class of 2018