

To: Assembly Members

From: Krisanne Rice, AFS Volunteer

Re: **AFS 2022-23 high school exchange students and volunteer host families and Welcome Potluck picnic, Sunday, August 21, Pioneer Park, 5pm.**

Date: August 19, 2022

Thank you for welcoming the AFS high school exchange students and acknowledging their volunteer host families at your meeting.

AFS-USA honors the legacy of its founders—volunteer WWI and WWII [American Field Service](#) ambulance drivers—who emerged from the wars with a bold mission: to help prevent future conflict through cultural exchange and understanding. As a partner in the global AFS network, AFS-USA offers international exchange and education opportunities in over 45 countries and hosts exchange students from 90 countries.

These four students are recipients of highly competitive scholarships funded by the US Department of State. These programs are designed to promote long-lasting peace and mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries. Students learn about the U.S. firsthand and teach us about their countries and cultures. American students can also apply for similar scholarships to study abroad in many of these same countries.

**YES** is the Kennedy - Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program and is for students living in over 40 countries with significant Muslim populations, from Albania to the West Bank.

**FLEX** is the Future Leaders Exchange Students Program and is for students that live in countries of Eurasia from Armenia to Uzbekistan.

### **Students**

1. Sadija Masic. Bosnia and Herzegovina. YES Program
2. Imane Baghourri. Morocco, YES Program
3. Daniel Sah. Cameroon, YES Program
4. Una Gailite. Latvia, FLEX Program

### **Host Families**

Ariel and Luke Starbuck  
Renee and Math Trafton  
Rachel and Nick Pilch  
Jessica and Thor Christianson

*Please consider coming to the **Welcome Community Picnic, this Sunday, August 21, 5 pm, at Pioneer Park.** Bring a dish to share! Meet the students and their host families and share some great Sitka potluck dishes!*