

## Our Mission

The American MidEast Leadership Network (AMLN) is a non-profit organization established to enhance cultural, economic, and political understanding between educators, students, journalists, professionals, officials, civic and religious leaders, and all interested citizens in the Middle East and the United States. This aim is achieved by providing resources and leadership development programs that encourage future leaders in both regions to explore the issues that divide and unite them. Along with its partner, the American Cultural Center of Nazareth (ACCON), AMLN works to introduce the Arab community in the Galilee to American culture and society through high-quality, simulated-immersion language programming.



Past Participants at the Bahai World Center in Haifa

## The “My Galilee” Program

The “My Galilee” Program is AMLN’s flagship program: an annual exchange that allows American university students and Arab students from the Galilee—or “Citizen Ambassadors” as they are called by the program—to build bridges of understanding at the citizen level and create opportunities for future interaction between them.

The program’s goals are:

- **To establish** safe, open forums for participants to engage in face-to-face

discussions on cultural, political, religious, and ethnic issues.

- **To empower** participants with the necessary skills, training, and life experiences to support and inspire them as future international leaders.
- **To encourage** participants to remain engaged and continue learning about each other after the formal program has ended.



Last Year’s Delegates Enjoying the Harbor of Akka

## Why Galilee?

The Galilee, a region in northern Israel that derives its name from the sea of the same name, brims with meaning for many different people. For adherents of the Abrahamic faiths—Islam, Christianity, and Judaism—the Galilee bears a great deal of significance. For residents of modern day Galilee, the region serves as a microcosm for a much larger social reality: roughly 22% of Israel’s citizens are of Arab descent, concentrated mainly in the country’s northern regions. Furthermore, the Arab community in the Galilee is, contrary to popular belief, quite diverse, consisting of Muslims, Christians, Druze, Bedouins and various other religious and ethnic denominations.

The fact that such information is not well-known to most Americans corroborates AMLN’s belief in the need for cross-cultural exchange programs between the United States and the Galilee. These programs serve to establish a line of communication between the two regions at the grassroots level. In doing so, AMLN hopes to dispel whatever misconceptions or stereotypes that parties on both sides of the divide

may hold about each other and thereby encourage the kind of dialogue that could improve relations. This is where you, the potential Civic Ambassador, can make your contribution.

## Program Outline

From July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>, selected American university students will travel to the Galilee and participate in a historically unique and unprecedented program that promotes dialogue and understanding between Arab university students and their American counterparts. Program participants, situated in a land of unparalleled historical and cultural significance, will experience first hand the places, people and traditions that inflame passions the world over.

The program will include:

- Cultural excursions and visits to sites of great significance to the Abrahamic religions, such as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Haifa, Tiberias and Akka
- Daily Arabic classes
- Dialogue sessions with Arab university students
- Town hall meetings and discussions with local leaders in the fields of education, religion, business, politics and culture
- Homestays with Arab families

The program’s primary objective is to bring together American and Arab university students from the Galilee in forums that allow them not only to address salient issues, but to develop strategies that can facilitate the progress of future relations as well. While attempting to form a bridge of civic understanding, students discuss political, cultural, personal and familial issues to dispel stereotypes and misconceptions that run rampant in media outlets on all sides of the debate.

# Program Cost

The cost for the 2012 “My Galilee” Program is \$2,500 plus international travel, and includes:

- All domestic transportation
- Three daily meals
- Accommodation expenses
- An insurance package
- Entertainment

Students will be responsible for personal spending expenses. Successful applicants will be required to attend a pre-departure orientation in New York.



A program alum at the Dome of the Rock

# How to Apply

Students must download and complete the application form and two required essays available on our website, [www.amln.org](http://www.amln.org). Students have the option of submitting a resume for consideration.

Students must also arrange for AMLN to receive the application package, one faculty letter of

recommendation (in a signed, sealed envelope) and an official transcript by the deadline. These materials can be sent to:

The American Mideast Leadership Network  
2012 “My Galilee” Program  
P.O. Box 2156  
Long Island City, NY 11102

# Contact Information

## United States Contact

**Rami Nuseir**  
President and Co-Founder  
P.O. Box 2156  
Long Island City, NY 11102  
347-924-9674  
[info@amln.org](mailto:info@amln.org)

## Galilee Contact

**Wihbi Kossim**  
Member of the Board and Co-founder  
P.O. Box 2498  
Nazareth, 16000  
Israel  
054-232-5806  
[wihbi@accon.us](mailto:wihbi@accon.us)



Last Year's Delegation at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem



# 2012 “My Galilee” Leadership Program