



PEACEBUILDING  
ACADEMY

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2026 Peacebuilding Academy on Sport for Peace

Application forms due [HERE](#) by 11:59pm CST on January 14th, 2026

Generations For Peace USA announces an open call for applications for the third annual Peacebuilding Academy made possible with generous support from and partnership with Laureus Sport for Good USA, Fight for Children, and the Gratitude Network. This call is open to youth-serving organizations in the United States and around the world, with priority consideration for those operating in Illinois, the greater DC area, and/or members of the Gratitude Network.

The 2026 Peacebuilding Academy is a FREE, virtual 6-month program that will run from January-June 2026 under the theme “Sport for Peace.” It is geared towards youth-serving organizations who are eager to learn and apply innovative new ways to use sport to transform issues of conflict and violence in their communities and strengthen youth resilience to violence. Over the course of the program, participating organizations will:

- Deepen their knowledge and skills in identifying community needs, analyzing conflict, and using sport to prevent and address conflict and violence;
- Create a practical plan for integrating peacebuilding principles and practices into their existing work;
- Connect with and learn from peers around the world, joining our growing alumni network!

The 2026 Peacebuilding Academy will include self-paced training modules, practical assignments to apply new learnings, monthly sharing and learning calls with others in the cohort, and office hours for personalized mentoring and technical assistance. We will organize a final virtual showcase at the end for participating organizations to reflect on and celebrate their lessons learned and best practices with a broader audience. Each participating organizational representative will receive a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the 6-month program.

The Peacebuilding Academy is rooted in Generations For Peace’s globally acclaimed Sport For Peace approach that has been used by more than 23,193 leaders of youth in 52 countries around the world, including the USA since 2019. For more information, visit <https://www.gfpusa.org/peacebuilding-academy>.

### Information Session

We are hosting an information session on the 2026 Peacebuilding Academy on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 10am-11am CST via Zoom. Click [HERE](#) to register. A recording of the session will be shared after with all who register. If you are not able to attend the information session and/or have additional questions on the 2026 Peacebuilding Academy, please contact Drew Rahme, GFP USA Programs Manager, at [arahme@gfp.ngo](mailto:arahme@gfp.ngo).

### How to Apply

If you’re interested in participating in the 2026 Peacebuilding Academy, please complete this [APPLICATION FORM](#) by 11:59pm US Central Time (CST) on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**. Please note we only accept applications through the online form.

Key dates in the application process include:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 2025 Peacebuilding Academy announced and application forms opened   | <b>December, 2025</b>                                 |
| Information session for interested organizations (register <a href="#">HERE</a> )   | <b>December 18, 2025</b><br><i>from 10am-11am CST</i> |
| Deadline to submit application forms (apply <a href="#">HERE</a> )  | <b>January 14, 2026</b><br><i>at 11:59pm CST</i>      |
| Discovery/scoping calls and baseline surveys for interested organizations with their two nominated organizational representatives | <b>Rolling basis, starting in mid-December 2025</b>   |
| Confirmation of participating organizations and signing of letters of commitment  | <b>January 20, 2026</b>                               |

## Eligibility Requirements

The 2026 Peacebuilding Academy is open to youth-serving organizations in the United States and around the world that meet the following criteria:

- Nonprofit that can demonstrate current in-country registration (i.e. 501(c)(3) status or equivalent), or fiscally-sponsored organization
- Youth-serving mission that benefits your community (priority consideration will be given to organizations serving communities in Illinois or the greater DC area, or members of the Gratitude Network)
- Willingness and commitment to using sport to address issues of conflict and violence in your community
- Capacity to nominate two organizational representatives to participate in the Peacebuilding Academy (preferably one staff member, who directly engages youth in programming; and one youth representative ages 16-25, who may be a staff member, intern, fellow, participant, etc.)
- Availability of your organization's two representatives to participate for the full duration of the program, which requires approximately 36 hours of commitment over six months, including:

| Action  | Hrs       | Month(s)   |
|---|-----------|--|
| Attending a kick-off call and meeting other cohort members  | 1         | Jan 22, 2026<br><i>from 10-11am CST</i>  |
| Reviewing monthly self-paced learning materials and submitting all homework assignments before that month's sharing and learning call             | 21.5      | Jan-June 2025  |
| Participating in monthly sharing and learning calls with peers in the cohort <i>*see note below on youth involvement*</i>                         | 9         | Jan 29, 2026<br>Feb 26, 2026<br>Mar 26, 2026<br>Apr 30, 2026<br>May 28, 2026<br>Jun 18, 2026<br><i>from 10-11:30am CST</i> |
| Completing midline and endline surveys  | 0.5       | Mar & June 2026  |
| Attending any of the monthly office hours with GFP USA staff to seek personalized feedback and support on any of the program materials            | 1         | Jan-June 2026  |
| Planning and participating in a virtual showcase on the Peacebuilding Academy to share lessons learned and best practices with a broader audience | 3         | June 23, 2026<br>(run-through)<br>June 25, 2026<br>(showcase)<br><i>From 10-11:30am CST</i>                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>36</b> | <b>Jan-Jun 2026</b>  |

**In order to receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program, participating organizations must submit all homework assignments and surveys (baseline, midline, and endline), attend at least 5 out of 6 monthly sharing and learning calls, and participate in the final showcase.**

Note: We acknowledge that weekday mornings are not usually conducive for participation by US-based high school students due to school schedules. If your organization has a youth representative who is unable to participate in the live sessions due to school commitments, please let us know in your application, and we are committed to working with you to explore alternative arrangements that can enable their meaningful participation.

## About Sport For Peace

Sport For Peace is an adaptable tool to bridge divides, strengthen communities, and build peace in areas experiencing conflict and violence. It was developed by Generations For Peace and has been used by 23,193 leaders of youth in 52 countries around the world since 2007. Sport For Peace uses specifically-designed sport-based games, drills, and adapted official sport code activities which integrate peer-group peacebuilding education, to achieve peacebuilding outcomes rather than develop sporting skills. The activities harness the energy of sport play, and the power of team dynamics and cooperation towards achieving a goal, but with the aim of changing attitudes, behavior, and relationships of the participants. No prior sport experience is required. Sport For Peace activities are carefully adapted to the local context and culture, the local priorities, and the chosen target group participating, and they can be improving based on available facilities and equipment. Sport For Peace is particularly effective in building trust and acceptance, developing respect, ensuring inclusion, and encouraging greater cooperation. For more information on the theory and practice of Sport For Peace, visit [here](#) and [here](#).

## About Generations For Peace USA

Generations For Peace USA engages children, youth, and adults in experiential learning, inclusive dialogue, and collaborative action to transform their communities into places of safety and belonging for all. Our approach prioritizes community agency and youth leadership, drawing from our global experience working with 23,000+ volunteers in 52 countries worldwide.

We have implemented sport-based youth violence prevention and bridge building programs in Chicago and Champaign, IL, and Washington, DC, since 2019, working with partners like the Gary Comer Youth Center on the Comer Education Campus, the New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA, and Laureus Sport for Good Foundation USA.

Generations For Peace USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with roots in international peacebuilding and development. We were founded in November 2012 by Generations For Peace, an acclaimed global peacebuilding organization headquartered in Jordan. Today, we are comprised of a skilled US-based team representing diverse identities, geographies, industries, and lived experiences from across the country. We are united in our shared commitment to apply Generations For Peace's global model to bridge divides, strengthen communities, and build peace in the USA. For more information, visit <http://www.gfpusa.ngo>.

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For any questions on the 2026 Peacebuilding Academy, please contact Drew Rahme, GFP USA Programs Manager, at [arahme@gfp.ngo](mailto:arahme@gfp.ngo)

