



Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada

Kalamata Summer School Program for Youth of Hellenic Descent and Teachers (2026)

Monday, July 13, 2026 to Monday, August 3, 2026

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Announcement

The **Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada**, together with local Messinian partners, municipalities, and organizations and individuals in the Diaspora, organizes for the eighteenth time a Greek summer school in Kalamata, from **Monday, July 13, 2026**, to **Monday, August 3, 2026**. The school curriculum includes Greek language, history, philosophy, culture and civilization. The program also includes educational excursions to archaeological sites, as well as to various museums and places of interest.

The purpose of the program is to enhance the Hellenic education and reinforce the Greek consciousness of our youth by providing an immersion experience in contemporary Greek culture in its native environment. Attendance to the lessons and all other program activities is mandatory. The Panmessinian Federation reserves the right apply disciplinary sanctions, such as warnings, or expelling from the program any student who skips the lessons or does not abide by the program rules.

Eligibility

Applicants for the Summer School program in Kalamata are eligible for the program if:

- They are between 18 and 24 years old (born between 2002 and 2008)
- They are of Hellenic (Greek or Cypriot) descent
- They hold a U.S. or Canadian passport
- They are university/college students or graduates or hold an admission letter to a college or university
- They have some ability to understand and communicate in the Greek language or wish to develop this skill

Students who participated in the program previously (2006 to 2025) are not eligible to apply in 2026. Priority will be given to students of Messinian descent. (Note: In previous years, all students who applied for the program, whether they were of Messinian descent or not, were accepted).

Note to Greek Language Teachers

Instruction in the Summer School Program is provided by qualified educators and program staff. Greek language teachers who participate in the program serve as Teaching Assistants and chaperones to the students. They may also be offered the chance to attend special seminars in teaching Greek as a second language, if there is adequate interest. Please be informed that teachers are required to go with the students on several physically rigorous trips.

Classes are between **10:00 a.m.** and **14:00 p.m.** at designated program facilities in Kalamata. The

program includes visits to archaeological sites and museums as well as activities outside the classroom in the afternoons and/or on Saturdays.

Attendance in the Summer School program (including all excursions), accommodation, breakfast and lunch are included in the registration. Participants are responsible for their own air fare and travel health insurance. **Registration must be paid in full prior to the start of the program.**

Students will be picked up from Syntagma Square, in front of McDonalds (Stadiou Street), on **July 13** and dropped off at the Acropolis entrance, at the parking lot by Dionysos Zonars Restaurant, on **August 3**.

Admissions

Applications for the 2026 Kalamata Summer School Class will open January 23, 2026, and are due April 30, 2026, 11.59 p.m. EST. Because applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, you should submit your application as soon as possible after March 1. Applications are not reviewed by the Admissions Committee until all required materials have been received.

- If you submit your completed application by March 31, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST, you should receive a decision on the first week of April. If the applications are more than the available spots, priority shall be given to applicants of Messinian descent.
- A second round of admissions will take place if there are still available spots after the first round. If you submit all materials by April 30, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST, you should receive a decision on the first week of May. If the applications exceed the available spots, priority shall be given to applicants of Messinian descent.
- The application deadline will be extended if there are still available spots after the second round of admissions. Applications completed after the April 30, 2026 deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis and applicants who do not meet all the eligibility requirements (e.g. 17-year-olds, not North American passport holders etc) are also welcome to apply but are not guaranteed a spot.

The Admissions Committee reserves the right to invite some or all applicants to an interview as well as to request proof of their parents' or grand-parents' stated city of birth.

Supporting Documents (Application)

Please submit the following with your completed application:

- 1 A copy of your valid passport (the page with your picture)
- 2 A copy of your valid student ID (College or University) or proof of recent graduation of a College or University or a letter of University or College acceptance for August/September 2026.
- 3 Completed Health Form (to be used in case of an emergency) and Travel Health Insurance (please do not purchase insurance before being accepted to the program)
- 4 The Waiver Release Form signed
- 5 The Code of Conduct signed
- 6 A brief Letter of Reference (from a non-family member, preferably a member of an educational institution, outlining the character and personality of the applicant, the ability to understand and communicate in the Greek language and how the student will benefit from the Summer School Program)
- 7 A copy of a Certified Cheque or Money Order payable to the Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada for \$350.00 USD (Application Fee). Payments can also be made on-line via our website at www.panmessinian.com. This Application Fee will be fully refunded only if the application is rejected. The fee is not refunded if the applicant is accepted but decides not to go*
- 8 A copy of a Certified Cheque or Money Order payable to the Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada for \$1,600.00 USD (Registration Fee) upon acceptance to the program. Payments can

also be made via our website at www.panmessinian.com. The Registration Fee is NOT refundable**

*The Certified Cheque/Money Order must be mailed to the Treasurer's address below by no later than the respective admission round's deadline for your application to be processed as part of that round of admissions.

**The Certified Cheque/Money Order must be mailed to the Treasurer's address below and received within 5 days of acceptance for your participation to be formally confirmed.

Panmessinian Federation of USA & Canada
Kostas Ntoufas (Treasurer)
33 Williamsburg Dr Roseland NJ 07068
kostasntoufas@gmail.com

The application and registration fees (certified cheque or money order) should be payable to "Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada".

USA applicants should be informed that the Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada is a Registered Charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations above the application and registration fees are more than welcome and will be used to support the program.

The Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada does not provide scholarships for its Summer School Program but applicants in financial need are welcome to contact their sponsoring Messinian associations to investigate the possibility for need-based financial assistance.

The completed application form and all supporting documents must be emailed in a timely manner to kalamatasummerschool@gmail.com. Applicants will be notified of the Admission Committee's decision by e-mail to the email address they have provided in the application form.

Please do NOT make any trip arrangements to Greece before being accepted to the program by the Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada.

For applications or for more information about the program you can also visit our website www.panmessinian.com or contact:

- Kostas Ntoufas (Director & On-site Coordinator of the Summer School Program at kalamatasummerschool@gmail.com & kostasntoufas@gmail.com; New Jersey)
- Margarita Bouras (On-site Coordinator of the Summer School Program at 514-992-8520; margaretbouras@hotmail.com; Montreal)
- Vasiliki Kouchoukos-Grosso (On-site Coordinator of the Summer School Program at grossob@aol.com, Chicago)
- Constantinos Skountzos (Vice President of the Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada at cskountzos@gmail.com, New York)

Please join our Official Facebook page: PanMessinian Kalamata Summer School Program

Follow us on our Official Instagram Page: kalamata_summer_school

It is hoped that the Summer School Program will help us maintain and transmit the vitality of Hellenism and the richness of Greek civilization to future generations of Hellenes in the Diaspora.

Panmessinian Federation of USA and Canada

www.panmessinian.com

panmessinianusaandcanada@gmail.com