
THE ANDZNAGIR

Happy New Year from U.S. Embassy Yerevan

As we turn the page on 2020, the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan wishes you and your family a happy 2021! The past year brought many challenges, and we hope you and your family have started 2021 happy, healthy, and safe. In starting off a new year, we celebrate one of the hallmarks of American democracy – the peaceful transition of power based on the will of the American people as exercised through the right to vote.

While it is a new year, we still face many of last year's challenges. We urge U.S. citizens to continue to take precautions to prevent the spread of coronavirus, and we continue to take precautions at the Embassy to keep you and your family – as well as our employees – safe. These measures include the wearing of masks, use of hand sanitizer and following hygiene best practices, and maintaining distance. Please keep in mind that face masks are required when visiting the Embassy. Our ACS team will continue to provide the latest COVID-19 information on our webpage, and to share that information via email and SMS for those enrolled in STEP.

While some consular services remain limited, we continue to provide appointments for passports, consular reports of birth abroad, and notarial services. We remain here to serve you and can be reached via the contact information below, and appointments can be made on our webpage.

Welcoming President Biden and Vice President Harris

One of the hallmarks of American democracy is the peaceful transition of power, which took place January 20, 2021. To learn more about the history of presidential inaugurations, check out the Embassy's answers to the most common questions about our presidential election system [here](#). Want to test your knowledge? Take our Presidential Inauguration Quiz [here](#).

You can find the full text of President Biden's inaugural address on our webpage [here](#). As we transition to the new administration, we want to share a few of the [immediate priorities](#) of the Biden-Harris administration, as they get to work.



The Administration has pledged to get to work on COVID-19, climate, racial equity, the economy, healthcare, immigration, and restoring America's global standing.

What is the Youth Poet Laureate?

If you watched the inauguration festivities, you may have been struck by the performance of the nation's first youth poet laureate, Amanda Gorman. At just 22, her reading of her poem, *The Hill We Climb*, was moving for many. It also prompted questions about just what is the youth poet laureate?

Gorman is just the sixth person to serve as the inaugural poet, following in the footsteps of Maya Angelou and Robert Frost, among others. You can read more about the history of the inaugural poet in Share America [here](#).

Gorman was also named the first national youth poet laureate in 2017. While the tradition



of having a poet laureate is a long one, the institution of a youth poet laureate is new. Gorman was also named the inaugural youth poet laureate of Los Angeles at the age of 14.

You can read the full text of her poem, *The Hill We Climb*, [here](#).

Armenia Coronavirus Update

The situation related to coronavirus remains serious worldwide, and we urge you to continue to adhere to local requirements related to the wearing of face masks and social distancing. The Government of Armenia extended its quarantine regime for six months, through July 2021. According to the quarantine regime, individuals entering Armenia must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival or submit to testing on arrival and quarantine until a negative result is received. You can find more information on the situation related to COVID-19 in Armenia on our COVID-19 page [here](#).

Coronavirus in the United States: What You Should Know

Effective January 26, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requires that all airline passengers traveling to the United States provide a negative COVID-19 viral test taken within 72 hours of departure or provide a positive test result as well as documentation from a licensed health care provider or public health official of having recovered from COVID-19 in the 90 days preceding travel. Passengers must also attest, under penalty of law, to having received a negative qualifying test result or to recover from COVID-19 and medical clearance to travel. This testing requirement applies to all individuals age two or

older who are traveling to the United States. You can find more information on the CDC webpage [here](#).

Please note the U.S. government does not plan to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to U.S. citizens overseas. U.S. citizens traveling or residing overseas should follow host country developments and guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination and we urge U.S. citizens overseas to make their own arrangements regarding medical care.

Be Prepared Before You Visit the U.S. Embassy

The American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit at U.S. Embassy Yerevan continues to provide passport, citizenship, and notarial services. Please check our [appointment page](#) for available appointments, currently available on Monday for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad and notarial services, and Thursday for passport services.

When scheduling and planning for your appointment, please keep the following requirements in mind:

- Please arrive ten minutes early to your appointment early to allow time for security screening. If you arrive late, you will be asked to reschedule your appointment.
- Wear a mask. In response to COVID-19 all visitors must wear masks while at the Embassy. You are required to bring your own mask(s). If you do not have a mask, you will be asked to reschedule your appointment for another day.
- Come fully prepared for your interview. If you are not fully prepared you will be asked to reschedule your appointment for another day.

American Citizens Services

(ACS) appointments can only be made online. Please visit the U.S. Embassy's website at <https://am.usembassy.gov/> or go [here](#) to schedule your next appointment.

The STEP Program*

STEP is short for *The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program*. It's a way for U.S. Citizen and nationals living and traveling abroad to enroll with the U.S. Embassy in any given country, and a way for the Embassy to contact citizens and nationals in the event of a crisis or natural disaster, a mass evacuation, or even a family emergency. STEP is a way for family and friends to contact you during such events.

STEP is also the way the U.S. Embassy in Armenia communicates important Travel Advisories and Alerts via text and SMS, as well conveying information through newsletters and email. Though there is no requirement for citizens traveling or living in Armenia and elsewhere to enroll in STEP, we highly encourage it. Have your passport and itinerary handy when you enroll: <https://step.state.gov>



Emergency Funds **

In an emergency situation and if no private method of transfer is available, family or friends in the United States may send money to a U.S. citizen in distressed circumstances overseas through the U.S. Embassy via the Overseas Citizens Services office of the Department of State.

To learn more about sending money overseas to a U.S. citizen in an emergency, visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go.html>. A fee of 30 USD is charged for setting up and maintaining a trust account (for one year or less) in order to transfer funds to, or for the benefit of, a U.S. citizen in need in a foreign country.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mother Teresa Orphanage

A small, dedicated group of Catholic nuns run an orphanage for disabled children in Nork Marash (neighborhood in Yerevan).

The sisters are always looking for volunteers to stop by to visit and spend time with the children. They have a wonderful local staff and international visitors who

come to work with the children periodically.

members of society. We need your enthusiasm and creativity! If interested, please contact Maritsa Hovhannisyan at HovhannisyanM@state.gov.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a group of U.S. Embassy-affiliated Armenians and Americans who design monthly projects to assist socially vulnerable



Websites

Lots of cafes and restaurants offer delivery services in Yerevan. The list here is for your convenience.

Restaurants that Deliver

If you can't find what you're looking for on menu.am or sovats.am, here are some alternative restaurants which provide delivery service:

<https://pandokyerevan.com/en>

<https://www.blackangus.am>

<http://www.winerepublic.am/>

www.toria.am

www.sas.am

Groceries

www.buy.am

www.shopon.am

www.sas.am

www.supermarket.am

www.parma.am

Fruits/vegetables

<https://gazar.am/en/>

Books/Stationery

www.penbox.am

www.noyantapan.am

www.karandash.am

Websites

Hike Armenia: <https://hikearmenia.org/>

REI Hiking Project: <https://www.hikingproject.com/directory/8019235/armenia>

All Trails Armenia: <https://www.alltrails.com/armenia>

The Transcaucasian Trail: <https://transcaucasiantrail.org/en/home/>

Wild Armenia: <https://wildarmenia.com/blog/hiking-in-armenia/>

Applications

Gaia GPS

Garmin GPS

Maps.am

Komoot

REI Hiking Project

ACS INFORMATION

Ellen Scholl serves as chief of our American Citizen Services Unit. Ellen has also lived and worked in Germany. She speaks German and Armenian.

Anahit Movsesyan is an Armenian citizen with extensive consular experience. She has worked for the U.S. Embassy for fourteen years. She previously served as Protocol Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador. Anahit speaks Armenian, Russian, and English.

As always, we welcome your comments, questions and feedback. Please write to us at ACSyerevan@state.gov

U.S. Embassy, Yerevan
Consular Section/ACS
1 American Ave, Yerevan 0082

Phone (M-F 8:30am-5:30pm):
(+374) 10 49-45-85

Emergency Phone (after hours):
(+374) 10 49-44-44

After applying for a passport or CRBA, you will receive an email from our office indicating that document is ready for pick up:

Passport and CRBA Pick-Up Hours
2:00 - 4:30p.m., Monday to Friday
(Excluding holidays)

Fees for Services

Notarial services -\$50 per seal
Marriage letter notary - \$50
Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) - \$100
Adult passport renewal - \$110
Minor passport / renewal - \$115
First time adult or replacement of lost or stolen passport -\$145

Fees can be paid in either U.S. dollars or Armenian drams.

Appointments can be online. Go [here](#).

US Embassy Yerevan: www.usa.am

US Embassy Auction: <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>

Employment at US Embassy:
https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms?_ref=ymm4c1h3pt0

Social Security: <https://gr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>