



## 2019 Sister Cities GERMAN Youth Exchange Program TRAVEL INFORMATION SHEET

(As of 9/7/18)

- WHAT:** An approximately 2-week long youth exchange program offering students or “delegates” the opportunity to live with a German host family. The delegation is expected to fly in/out of Berlin’s Tegel Airport. A two-night “bonus excursion” is anticipated; in 2017 the delegation stayed in Berlin. Chaperones will determine the destination for 2019 once the delegation is selected. Currently, the only variable cost is airfare which will be a direct cost payable by each delegate at the time of booking.
- GOAL:** Sister Cities Newport News conducts “Reciprocal Exchange Programs” that operate at minimal expense and take advantage of the hospitality and long-standing relationships established by “sistering” communities. Direct "People-to-People" contact is the mission of the program. Through these contacts, the delegates will grow in their language skills and develop a broader appreciation for a different culture.
- WHERE:** Greifswald, Germany – Sister City to the City of Newport News since 2007
- WHEN:** Sat. June 15 – Sun. June 30, 2019
- WHO:** Up to 20 Newport News area high school students (preferably those studying the German language) in grades 9-12 as of the 2016-17 academic year, with 2 adult chaperons.

***Students who hosted with the Jahn Gymnasium exchanges in 2014, 2016 & 2019 will have priority to participate in this reciprocal exchange to Greifswald***

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$800\* to 1,200 - round trip airfare (paid directly to travel agent)  
\$150 – SCNN travel confirmation fee  
\$500 – Bonus city visit (\$300 hotel/transport & \$200 food/tours)  
\$200 – misc. expenses

**\$1,650 to 2,050 – TOTAL** \*Roundtrip airfare cost was \$800 in 2017

### **Youth Travel Eligibility:**

1. Must be in grades 8-12 for the 2018-19 academic school year (homeschooled children welcome).
2. Must be flexible and possess an adventurous spirit
3. Must agree to adhere to the itinerary established by SCNN and the host city\*\*
4. Must agree to be home-stayed by a host family
5. Must provide medical insurance coverage information
6. Must sign a release of liability waiver and authorizing for medical emergency treatment
7. Must be available for travel on the dates of the exchange (no partial stays)
8. Must be a member of Sister Cities of Newport News (High School membership FREE / adults \$25)
9. Must commit to participating with Sister Cities by hosting a future delegate
10. Must pay a nonrefundable \$150 travel confirmation fee if selected to travel
11. Must agree to pay the cost of airfare within 48 hours of flight booking via credit card
12. Must provide **at the time of application** a copy of a current U.S. passport (good for 6 months after the travel dates) or proof that a U.S. passport has been applied for.
13. Must submit a completed “Youth Delegate Application” available at [www.sistercities-nn.com](http://www.sistercities-nn.com)

### **How are delegates selected?**

The Selection Committee will select delegates for the exchange based on the applications received, the goals of the exchange and the mission of SCNN. **Travel preference will be given to those who have previously hosted. For this exchange, consideration will be given to students with German Language skills.** SCNN seeks high-caliber delegates who will be good representatives of our schools, community and nation. In particular, the selection committee seeks delegates who exhibit the following characteristics:

- \* Adaptability
- \* Friendliness
- \* Open-mindedness
- \* Interest in World Affairs
- \* Consideration for others
- \* Maturity
- \* Trustworthiness
- \* Community/School Involvement

*\*\*Note: Failure to exhibit the necessary decorum and respect to the hosting city could result in removal from the exchange at the delegates expense and exclusion from future exchanges*

### **Exchange Timetable (subject to change with notice)**

October 17	Informational Meeting; Menchville High School; 5:00 pm
October 31	Deadline for Applications
November 21	Announcement of Delegates
November 29	SCNN Annual Meeting: Presentation of Delegation and Scholarship Award
December 12	Delegation Meeting #1 / should have an idea of airfare costs
January 16	\$150 Travel Confirmation Fee Due; copy of passports and waiver due; SCNN will reserve airfare. <b><u>Delegates to purchase airfare directly with travel agent chosen by SCNN.</u></b> (Delegates should consider their personal need for travel insurance.)
February 20	Delegation Meeting #2: Menchville High @ 5:30 pm (profile form Due)
March 1	"Delegate Profiles" provided to Greifswald for host matching
March 18	Delegation Meeting #3 / location TBD
April 12-19	German High School Students visit to Newport News
May 22	Delegation Meeting #4 / date and location TBD
Sat. June 15	Depart USA (afternoon)
Sun. June 16	Arrive in Germany (morning) transport to Greifswald
Sun. June 30	Depart Germany / Arrive in USA
July 9	Delegation Reports to NN City Council
July 16	Delegation Reports to NN School Board

### **WHAT IS A SISTER CITY?**

"Sistering" is a process that officially links citizens and municipalities with foreign communities through formal "Sister City" agreements. These agreements are fostered by grass-roots, citizen efforts and then ratified by a City Council, or its equivalent. The process of sistering cities was developed so that relationships would be grounded in long-term community partnerships. Sister Cities International is the nation's foremost citizen diplomacy movement with more than 2,300 communities participating in 130 countries.