



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

(as of 2/5/2018)

**WHAT:** An approximately 2-week long youth exchange program offering students or “delegates” the opportunity to attend a French High School and live with a French host family. The delegation is expected to fly in/out of Paris and travel via train to the host city of Saint Nazaire. A “bonus excursion” is anticipated in Paris at the end of the exchange visit. This is SCNN’s first youth exchange with St. Nazaire. The main cost of the exchange 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:** Saint Nazaire, France – Friendship City to the City of Newport News / School site is Lycee Aristide Briand (LAB): <http://briand-lyc.spip.ac-rouen.fr>

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 27 to Saturday, April 6, 2019

**WHO:** Up to 20 Newport News area high school students in grades 8-12, with 2 adult chaperons.

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$1,015\* - 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  
**\$1,865 – TOTAL**

### **Youth Travel Eligibility:**

1. Must be in grades 8-12 (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 (\$25 per family)
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 2 years of French Language study. Interviews will be conducted.** 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)**

November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Informational Meeting; Warwick High School
December 1	Deadline for Applications
Fri. January 25	Delegate Interviews
Thurs. Feb 14	Copy of passports and waiver due; Announcement of Delegates
Thurs. Feb 21	Delegation Meeting #1: Warwick High @ 5:30 pm / "Delegate Profiles" provided to host city for host matching / \$150 Travel Confirmation Fee Due; SCNN will reserve airfare. <u>Delegates to purchase airfare directly with travel agent chosen by SCNN.</u> (Delegates should consider their personal need for travel insurance.)
Wed. March 6	Delegation Meeting #2 / date and location TBD
Wed. March 20	Delegation Meeting #3 / date and location TBD
Wed. March 27	Leave Newport News for airport (IAD Dulles) depart approx. 7:30 PM
Thurs. March 28	Arrive in France (CDG - Paris) approx. 8:00 AM - train to St. Nazaire
Sat. April 6	Depart Paris approx. 1:15 PM / Arrive in USA approx. 4 PM
April 12-19	German High School Students visit to Newport News – <b>opportunity to host!</b>
October 16-26	French High School Students visit to Newport News – <b>opportunity to host!</b>
TBD	Delegation Reports to NN City Council
TBD	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.