

SCNN Citizen Diplomat Exchange to Greifswald, Germany

August 31 to September 7, 2024

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Mission of Sister Cities of Newport News (SCNN):

To build and strengthen international cooperation, understanding and development between the citizens of the City of Newport News and those of the World.

Exchange Objectives:

1. To grow Newport News' Sister City Relationship with Greifswald.
2. To identify local "Citizen Diplomats" interested in supporting the SCNN program.
3. To expose citizens directly to the German culture and have **them** share that experience upon return with our community.
4. To identify and establish "remote" programs for exchange between cities for those who cannot travel (soccer (Lionsbridge FC), sports, music art exchanges etc..)
5. To promote Greifswald's celebration of Caspar David Friedrich's and his 250-birthday anniversary

Travel Eligibility:

- ✓ Must be 18 years of age if traveling alone, or as young as 15 yrs if travelling with a custodial adult
- ✓ Must be a member of Sister Cities of Newport News (membership starts at \$25)
- ✓ Must be flexible and poses an adventurous spirit
- ✓ Must have the physical strength and stamina to endure 5 full days of walking.
- ✓ Must be available for travel on the selected dates*
- ✓ Must be able to pay the full cost of airfare (estimate is \$1,800 roundtrip) and personal spending money spending
- ✓ Must commit to participating and executing the mission of the Sister Cities organization by hosting a delegate in their home or volunteering for a least one full year with SCNN
- ✓ Must adhere to the itinerary established by SCNN and the host city**
- ✓ Must agree to be home-stayed by a host family
- ✓ Must submit a completed "Citizen Diplomat" application
- ✓ Must produce at the time of application, a passport good for 6 months after travel dates
- ✓ Must submit a non-refundable \$150 administrative fee if selected to travel

NOTES:

* Delegates may extend their stay and travel at their own expense to other destinations at the end or their stay in Greifswald at their own expense.

**Failure to exhibit the necessary decorum and respect could result in removal from the exchange and exclusion from future exchanges

Selection:

If more than 15 eligible individuals apply, SCNN will initiate a selection process to reach a 15 member delegation. SCNN, Inc. reserves the right to select delegates for the exchange based on the applications received, the goals of the exchange and the mission of SCNN.

Contacts:

Kate Helwig, SCNN Executive Director

E-mail: info@sistercities-nn.com W: 757-926-1348 / Cell: 508-7163 / H: 757-259-1764

Katie Stodghill, Greifswald Committee Chair; w: 757-327-0469 / kss@pmaarchitecture.com

Delegation Deadlines & Timetables

- May 2 Committee Program celebrating CDF
- May 31 Deadline for Delegate Interest Forms
- By June 5 Announce Delegate members
- By Tues. June 11 1st Delegation Meeting / \$150 Deposit and photo page of Passport Due to confirm participation / names and birthdates give to travel agent to book airfare
- By June 13 Delegates Purchase Airfare - flight to be paid individually by each delegates / delegate should consider their individual need for travel insurance
- Fri. June 14 Delegates to Attend International Breakfast at CNU / 8 to 9 am
- June 18 Email Greifswald names of confirmed delegation so they can secure host families
- TBD 2nd Delegation Meeting (Dinner ?)
- Sat Aug 31 Depart US for Germany
- Sunday, Sept 1 Arrival Berlin / transport to Greifswald / Homestay (5 night)
- Friday, Sept 6 Depart Greifswald for Berlin (1 night hotel stay)
- Sat. Sept 7 Depart Berlin for US
- TBD Present gifts & brief report to NN City Council

TOTAL Estimated Delegate Expenses	Budget	Actual
SCNN Dues	25	
Travel Deposit	150	
Airfare	1,800	
A gift for your hosts	25	
Dinner event for host families	200	
Travel Cash	300	
Hotel in Berlin 1 night X \$140	140	
Meals in Berlin	75	
Shared taxi to airport \$10	10	
	\$2,725	

Important Names to Know in Greifswald:

1. Lord Mayor Dr. Stefan Fassbinder
2. Anett Hauswald (a.hauswald@greifswald.de) Office of Education, Culture and Sport
3. Dennis Shea (DennisShea@web.de) President, Greifswald Friends of North America Club
4. Mr. Friedhelm Hein, Past-President, Greifswald Friends of North America Club
5. Dr. Arthur König (wife, Elke König) **Former** Mayor

2024 Applications Received

1. Katie Stodghill (leader)	kss@pmaarchitecture.com	757-593-6865
2. Holly Koons	Holly.koons@cnu.edu	571-732-6775
3. Ernestine Dole	Edole2@cox.net	757-810-8788
4. Dawn Harris	otscogranby@gmail.com	757-907-3864
5. Mario Mazzarella		757-817-5490
6. Becky Mazzarella		
7.		

Travel Agent(s):

USD Travel: <https://www.usdtravel.eu> / 719-392-2535 Ms. Denise Harden / dh@usdtravel.eu
Call us between 09.00 am - 10.00 pm Monday thru Friday / 10.00 am - 06.00 pm Saturday.

2019 Airline Itinerary / 626 Euros - \$700 round trip

Over:

Delta #5003 Norfolk (ORF) to New York (JFK)

Delta #92 JFK to Berlin (TXL)

Back

DL #9647 Berlin (TXL) to Amsterdam (AMS)

DL #9358 Amsterdam (AMS) to New York (JFK)

DL #5303 New York (JFK) to Norfolk (ORF)

Picking Airline Itineraries and Booking Flights:

SCNN tries to have all our delegates arrive in the host City together as a group. This is because the host city will pick us up as group at the airport and transport you to meet the host families. SCNN will work with a travel agent to find the best flights available to us. They may not always be the cheapest, as we take into consideration the departing city, the number of transfers and the flight time. Once all delegates have confirmed their participation and paid the \$150 non-refundable deposit, SCNN will “reserve” seats and you will be asked to pay the travel agent directly with a credit card within 24-72 hours to secure the flight. Depending on your budget and experience, you should consider purchasing travel insurance. YOU MAY WORK WITH THE TRAVEL AGENT TO SHOOSE A DIFFERENT TRAVEL DEPARTURE ITINERARY ONCE ARRIVED IN BERLIN. You can choose to leave immediately or extend travel in country. You do not have to return on the flight chosen, but we do ask that you travel from Greifswald to Berlin as a “group” unless to you plan to stay for personal travel in Northern Germany or surrounding countries.

Berlin Hotel

Gift Ideas for Host Families:

(Delegates are expected to take a gift for homestay family / US made preferred)

The Virginia Store, Downtown Hampton

Barnes and Noble

The Fresh Market

- Local, Handmade soap
- US made Candles
- Candy – Sees /chocolate/ taffy
- Perfume
- Bath and Body Works items
- Ties
- Cigars
- Coins (US quarter collections)
- US Magazines
- Pictures of your family/home
- Pottery
- Books of local interest
- Alcohol
- Colonial themed gifts

Items to Pack

Travel bag to carry on plane with clothes

Medications ***in their original bottles***

Camera/phone

Journal

Electrical adapters

Antihistamine/Tylenol /Advil

Pepto Bismal

Book for the plane

At least one “business” outfit

Other:

1. All major cell phone carriers’ work in Germany but, you must call in advance to activate your international service.
2. Install and Use an “App” (application) like “What’s Ap” on your phone
3. SCNN will provide small gifts for delegation leaders to give to places you visit.
4. Take a business or calling card (make one up with your picture and email address)
5. Call you bank to let them know your credit card needs to activate for overseas travel.
6. Call your health insurance carrier to see if you are covered for overseas travel.
7. Don’t forget small gifts for your homestay hosts.