



# Sister Cities

## Newport News

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### LONG TERM (8-week) High School Exchange Program 2018 INFORMATION SHEET

(12/12/2017)

- WHAT:** An 8-week international exchange program for 4 to 5 current high schoolers that gives students the opportunity to attend a German High School and live with a German host family. (Students will travel without chaperones to and from Germany.)
- GOAL:** To establish a long-term student exchange program with Greifswald that can be repeated in the future. Students in this exchange must agree to host a student from a German family for a reciprocal 8 week visit in Newport News. The goal is to have the students grow in their language skills and develop a broader appreciation for another culture.
- WHERE:** **Greifswald, Germany – Sister City to the City of Newport News since 2007**
- WHEN:** **Host a student in Newport News: March 22- May 19, 2018**  
**Travel and stay in Germany: May 19 to July 14, 2018**
- WHO:** Newport News area high school students in grades 9-12 for the 2017-18 academic year.

**ESTIMATED COST:**

\$1,200.00 - round trip airfare (paid directly to travel agent)  
150.00 – SCNN travel confirmation fee  
500.00 – spending money  
**\$1,850.00 – TOTAL**

**Eligibility:**

1. Must be enrolled in grades 9-12 for the 2017-18 academic school year in a school agreeing to matriculate an incoming international student.
2. 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.
3. Must agree to be home-stayed by a German host family.
4. Must commit to reciprocate by hosting an incoming German High School student in the spring of 2017. There is no compensation for hosting.
5. Must have parental permission to travel unchaperoned on flights.
6. Must depart on the scheduled travel dates with the understanding that travel is prior to the end of the academic school year. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to coordinate with their teachers/school administration all necessary class requirements and permissions to be excused from school.
7. Must agree to adhere to the itinerary established by SCNN and the host city.
8. Must provide medical insurance coverage information.
9. Must sign a release of liability waiver and authorization for medical emergency treatment.
10. Must be available for travel for the full dates of the exchange (no partial stays).
11. Must be flexible and possess an adventurous spirit.
12. Must be a member of Sister Cities of Newport News.
13. Must pay a nonrefundable \$150 travel confirmation fee **upon selection** for the exchange.
14. Must agree to pay the cost of airfare within 48 hours of flight booking via credit card.
15. Must submit a completed Application available at [www.sistercities-nn.com](http://www.sistercities-nn.com)

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

A selection committee will select students based on applications received, the goals of the exchange and the mission of SCNN. 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
- \* German Language Aptitude
- \* Consideration for others
- \* Maturity
- \* Trustworthiness
- \* Community/School Involvement

*Note: Failure to exhibit the necessary decorum and respect to the hosting city will result in removal from the exchange at the student's expense and exclusion from future exchanges.*

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

December 13	Informational Meeting; Menchville High School; 5:00 pm
December 31	Deadline for Applications
January 3 & 4	Applicant Interviews
January 5	Exchange Students Announced
January 15	Student Meeting #1 –\$150 Travel Confirmation Fee Due; forms and waivers due; German Student Matches Announced
February 23	Student Meeting #2
March 1	SCNN will reserve airfare – delegates purchase individually with travel agent chosen by SCNN. (Delegates consider their personal need for travel insurance.)
March 22	German Students arrive in Newport News
April 17	German/US Students Report to NN School Board
April 24	German/US Students Report to NN City Council
June 17	German/US Students Arrive in Germany (morning) transport to Greifswald
July 14	US Students Depart Germany / Arrive in USA
July 24	Newport News Students Report to NN City Council
TBD	Newport News Students Report 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. 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. 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.

***Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.***