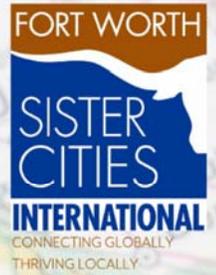


TIME TO TRAVEL



FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL



Travel to China, eSwatini,
France, Germany, Italy,
Mexico, Hungary or Japan.
Apply today!

2020 YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGES



Fort Worth Sister Cities has provided international outbound youth exchanges since 1985 to give students a competitive edge in today's global society. Fort Worth has nine sister cities around the world ready to be explored. Those students selected:

- Participate in a U.S. Dept. of State recognized program
- Meet city officials in both Fort Worth and the city visited
- Volunteer on projects emphasizing global community service
- Share Texas culture and promote Fort Worth to the world
- Explore and gain an understanding of different cultures while making life lasting friendships

2020 YOUTH EXCHANGES

2020 YOUTH EXCHANGES	Dates*	Grades	Cost*
Budapest, Hungary	March 7-15, 2020	9-12	\$2,500
Nîmes, France	March 7-15, 2020	9-12	\$2,500
Reggio Emilia, Italy	March 7-15, 2020	9-12	\$2,500
Toluca, Mexico	March 7-15, 2020	9-12	\$1,700
Trier, Germany	June 5-15, 2020	9-12	\$2,500
Guiyang, China	June 5-15, 2020	9-12	\$3,800
Nagaoka, Japan	June 20-29, 2020	8-12	\$2,700
Nagaoka, Japan - Harashin Scholar	July 25-Aug. 4, 2020	9-11	\$350
Mbabane, eSwatini (note: 2021 date)	June 5-15, 2021	9-11	\$3,800

**All dates and costs are approximations.*

APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

To apply, complete an application (page 7) and submit a \$25 student membership fee, copy of last report card, recommendations from two teachers (page 8), and a one-page essay, typed and double spaced, on "Why I want to be a Youth Ambassador" by Oct. 18, 2019. You will be contacted to schedule a personal interview in November where you must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

COSTS AND DEPOSITS

Round-trip airfare, taxes, ground transportation, lodging, program fee, most meals, local excursion fees, day trips, insurance, and orientation materials are included. If selected, a **\$500 non-refundable deposit is due Nov. 29, 2019**. Final balance is due 45 days prior to departure.

SCHOLARSHIPS

See page 6. Other paperwork may be required.

REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY



Experience the culture and classics of Italy in the historic city of Reggio Emilia. Cultivate lasting friendships with your Italian host family where you will learn about the daily life and culture of Italy. Historical sites include spectacular cathedrals and palazzos (palaces) dating back to the 12th century, the Municipal Theater, as well as the famous Reggiano Parmigiano cheese factory. Enjoy a day excursion to the city of Florence to visit the famous Uffizi Museum and Michelangelo's statue of David. Also enjoy a day trip to Verona, the scene of Romeo and Juliet, and explore the famous ancient Roman ruins. Your adventure ends with a farewell pasta party with your host family and new friends bidding you "arrivederci!"

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Experience 2000 years of history unfolding in a city reborn several times from pre-Roman to Magyar time, to post Iron Curtain. Journey through time in a city known for its rich culture and architecture. Relive the city's medieval and Baroque pasts as you visit colorful palaces and the Hungarian Parliament. You will also see the Danube River which divides the twin cities, Buda and Pest which were united in 1872. Explore the beautiful countryside of Hungary during day excursions such as Szentendre ending your journey with a farewell dinner cruise on the Danube.



TRIER, GERMANY



Trier is Germany's oldest city founded in 16 B.C. by the Romans and is nestled on the banks of the Moselle River. You will see history come to life with your Trier host brother or sister. Explore famous archaeological sites, medieval markets, theaters, museums, palaces and take a bike ride along the Moselle taking in the panoramic view of a country castle. This exciting adventure also includes a visit to other cities in Germany and a day trip to the small country of Luxembourg. Treasure your memories as you bid "auf wiedersehen," leaving this beautiful land with new friendships and an awareness of Germany's incredible history and culture.

TOLUCA, MEXICO



Toluca is the capital of the State of Mexico located on a fertile plateau, surrounded by a mountain range and crowned by the majestic volcano, Xinantécatl. Toluca is known for its natural beauty, hospitality, artisan markets, and quaint restaurants. Being home hosted will immerse you in the local culture and language. Experience a full day excursion to pre-Hispanic ceremonial centers and the pyramids, as well as other cultural and historic sites.

NÎMES, FRANCE



Located in southern France nestled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Cévennes mountains, venture to Nîmes and discover a variety of food, monuments, and culture. Founded by the Romans roughly before 118 B.C., Nîmes has become known as the French Rome. Filled with ancient ruins and monuments, Nîmes offers sites such as the Roman amphitheater, the Pont du Gard aqueduct, the Nîmes Arena, and the Maison Carrée that captivate the Roman influence coursing throughout the city. Immerse yourself in the French language and culture and find that certain “je ne sais quoi” you can only find there.

GUIYANG, CHINA

Guiyang is a major economic, political and cultural center in the Guizhou Province and has retained the natural beauty of its environment and picturesque scenery. Guiyang boasts having the largest urban forest park in China, Qianling Park. With its origins dating back 600 years, it offers a variety of historic sites including the largest Buddhist monastery in the Guizhou Province and one of the largest waterfalls in China. This trip will expose you to new customs and traditions unique to China. Activities will include participation in a community service project such as working with the Miao minority people. You will also travel to Beijing to tour the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China.



NAGAOKA, JAPAN



Immerse yourself in the tranquility of Japan. Discover the history of the Samurai, exchange ideas and stories with Japanese classmates and delve into hands-on cultural activities with your host brother or sister. Local tours will include the Museum of History, the famous Aoshi Shrine, a possible overnight stay in a Buddhist Temple, one-night stay in Tokyo, and an excursion to the Sea of Japan. As you bid your family “**sayonara**,” you will leave with a new appreciation of this ancient culture and country.

NAGAOKA, JAPAN HARASHIN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Since 1990, the Harashin Corp. of Nagaoka has funded this unique program demonstrating a commitment to cultural enrichment. They generously provide scholarships for eight Fort Worth students and two teachers each year. While living with a host family, you will experience the rich traditions of Japan and attend the spectacular Hanabi, a three-day fireworks festival, the largest in the world. This is a reciprocal exchange where the Fort Worth scholarship recipient must host a brother or sister from Nagaoka August 6-14, 2020.



MBABANE, ESWATINI



Discover why eSwatini is known as “The Kingdom of Smiles.” Mbabane is the capital of the Kingdom of Eswatini bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, and known for its ceremonial culture. You will visit a wildlife safari, museums, nature preserves and glimpse the classic Swazi lifestyle. Mbabane, nestled in beautiful rolling hills, will be a welcome respite from Texas’ summer heat, with temperatures ranging from 45 to 65 degrees. During the visit you will interact with students and participate in activities that include visiting schools, a Community Center, and share Texas culture with your new friends. The journey will include a 2-3 day excursion to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Note: This exchange is scheduled for 2021.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Fort Worth Sister Cities International offers three opportunities to obtain scholarships for Youth Ambassador Exchanges. The scholarships available are the Yamagata Emerging Leader scholarship, the Harashin scholarship, and limited need-based partial scholarships

Each scholarship has different requirements and some include extra items in addition to the standard application. Please read carefully to make sure you understand all of the requirements. You may apply for more than one scholarship.

YAMAGATA EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

The Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholarship was created to honor two community leaders, the late Tadashi and Elaine Yamagata.

- **Scholarship outline**
 - Leadership and community service-based
 - Covers up to \$2,000 (not including \$350 program fee)
- **Requirements**
 - Current 10th and 11th graders
 - Second essay on “How my leadership and volunteer service has impacted the community”
 - Resume outlining leadership and community service
 - Must attend second interview on **Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019 between 9:00 a.m. and noon.**
 - Recipients are expected to serve on the Fort Worth Youth International board during 2020-21 and volunteer at the Sundance Santa fundraiser in December 2019

HARASHIN SCHOLAR

Since 1990, The Harashin Corp. has funded scholarships for eight Fort Worth students and two teachers to travel to Nagaoka, Japan for an educational and cultural enrichment exchange. In return, the families of these Fort Worth students host students and teachers from Nagaoka in their homes for a reciprocal exchange.

- **Scholarship outline**
 - Academic and leadership-based
 - Applies only to exchange to Nagaoka July 25-Aug.4, 2020
 - Covers entire cost except \$350 program fee
- **Requirements**
 - Current 9th through 11th graders
 - Must participate in reciprocal exchange Aug.6-14, 2020 and home host Japanese brother or sister
 - Recipients are expected to serve on the Fort Worth Youth International board during 2020-21 and volunteer at Sundance Santa fundraiser in December 2019.

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Fort Worth Sister Cities funds some students in need who wish to go on exchanges. Scholarship recipients will receive a letter after their interview detailing their scholarship award.

- **Scholarship outline**
 - Need-based and limited
 - Scholarship amounts range from \$100-\$1,000
- **Requirements**
 - Scholarship request form (page 9)
 - 2018 tax return
 - Recipients are expected to volunteer at Sundance Santa fundraiser in December 2019

YOUTH AMBASSADOR APPLICATION

Application Deadline: Oct. 18, 2019

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ DOB _____

School _____ Grade Level _____

HS Graduation Year _____ Student Email _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent Work Phone _____ Parent Cell Phone _____
(Mom) (Dad) (Mom) (Dad)

Student Phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

Ethnicity _____ Citizenship _____

Indicate in numerical order your preference of countries to be considered for as a Youth Ambassador. You may participate in more than one exchange.

- ___ Reggio Emilia, Italy (grades 9-12)
- ___ Toluca, Mexico (grades 9-12)
- ___ Nagaoka, Japan (grades 8-12)
- ___ Nagaoka, Japan- Harashin (grades 9-11)
- ___ Mbabane, eSwatini (grades 9-11) *Note: This exchange is scheduled for 2021*
- ___ Trier, Germany (grades 9-12)
- ___ Budapest, Hungary (grades 9-12)
- ___ Guiyang, China (grades 9-12)
- ___ Nîmes, France (grades 9-12)

- ___ I would like to apply for a partial scholarship
- ___ I would like to apply for the Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholarship (grades 10-11)

Please complete application, attach items listed below and fax, email, deliver, or mail by Oct. 18, 2019.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- \$25 student membership fee. Check/money order made payable to Fort Worth Sister Cities
- Copy of last report card
- Recommendations from **two** teachers, faxed or emailed separately by the teachers (page 8)
- One page essay, typed, double spaced, on "Why I want to be a Fort Worth Youth Ambassador"
- Yamagata Emerging Leaders applicants:** Resume and essay on "How my leadership and volunteer service has impacted the community"
- Partial scholarship applicants:** Scholarship Request Form (page 9) and latest tax return

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Fort Worth Sister Cities International
P.O. Box 17879 Fort Worth, TX 76102
817.632.7100 p • 817.632.7120 f
beth@fwsistercities.org

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

The Youth Ambassador Exchange Program enables students to visit one of Fort Worth's sister cities. The student requesting this recommendation is applying to become a Youth Ambassador. While abroad the student will live with a host family. Your confidential evaluation of this student is greatly appreciated.

Mail/fax/email to address below by Oct. 18, 2019.

Student's name _____

Subject(s) taught this student _____

Teacher's name _____

Email address _____

School name _____

Rating Scale

1) Unacceptable 2) Needs Improvement 3) Acceptable 4) Commendable 5) Superior

<u>Evaluated Area</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Evaluated Area</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Maturity	___	Interest in cultural diversity	___
Flexibility	___	Sensitive to others	___
Team Player	___	Communication skills	___
Open-mindedness	___	Respect for authority	___

Briefly explain why you would or would not recommend this student for acceptance in this program.

All comments will remain confidential.

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SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST APPLICATION

Student name _____

Is student applicant currently employed? Yes/No

Employer _____ Hours per week _____

PARENT INFORMATION

Number and ages of dependents living at home _____

of family members in college _____

Father's name _____ Mother's name _____

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Employer _____ Employer _____

Annual income _____ Annual income _____

Other annual income _____

Brief description of unusual family expenses: _____

Brief specific statement on reason(s) for scholarship amount request. _____

Amount of partial scholarship requested for son/daughter to participate \$ _____

Applicant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Attach copy of last tax return and fax to Sister Cities' office at 817-632-7120 or scan and email to beth@fwsistercities.org prior to interview date.

All information will remain confidential.

NOTE: This form is not required for the Yamagata Emerging Leader or Harashin Scholarship.

SANTA IN SUNDANCE SQUARE

Sundance Square and Fort Worth Sister Cities International partner together each year to give the gift of a Christmas experience to the community, and FWSCI receives the funds to support our **youth programs**.

Each student involved in FWSCI programs is requested to work a minimum of two shifts.

Jobs include photographers, printing photos, helping with the electronic line system, welcoming customers, explaining the electronic line system, ushering the customers to Santa and so much more!

It's a fun activity to do with your friends and fellow delegates!

SIGN UPS WILL BE AT STUDENT INTERVIEWS, SO BRING YOUR CALENDARS!

DATES:

Nov. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

Dec. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22



OUR MISSION

To promote Fort Worth globally and enrich our community through international education, exchange and commerce, creating a more peaceful and prosperous world.

OUR VISION

To serve as Fort Worth's leading authority on international relations and ambassador for peaceful civic engagement.

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