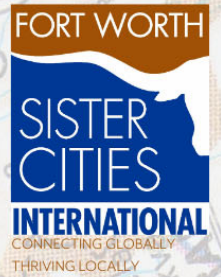


TIME TO TRAVEL



FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL



Travel to Eswatini, France,
Germany, Hungary,
Indonesia, Italy, Japan, or
France. Apply today!

2026 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. Students that are selected:

- Participate in U.S. Department of State-recognized program
- Meet city officials in both Fort Worth and the city visited
- Participate in global community service projects
- Share Texas culture and promote Fort Worth to the world
- Gain an understanding of different cultures
- Make life-long friendships



“Over the course of my time with Fort Worth Sister Cities International, I was selected to travel to Reggio Emilia, Italy and chosen for the Harashin Scholarship to travel to Nagaoka, Japan. The way I view my life has changed, as well as my view of the world. By forming relationships with new people and experiencing new cultures, I learned that our similarities far outweigh our differences. I made lifelong friends on these exchanges and personally grew so much by journeying outside of my comfort zone. I am forever grateful for the friendships and the experiences that I have gained through Sister Cities.”

-Connor Smith, FWISD Student & Harashin Scholar

****DATES AND COSTS ARE APPROXIMATE***

**Costs listed are in a range from lowest to highest estimations. Please note the increase is due to inflationary pressure and the decline in the value of the US dollar versus other currencies.*

Sister City	Dates*	Grades	Cost*
Budapest, Hungary	March 14—22, 2026	9-12	\$3490-\$3890
Nîmes, France	March 14—22, 2026	9-12	\$3490-\$3890
Reggio Emilia, Italy	March 14—22, 2026	9-12	\$3490-\$3890
Trier, Germany	June 1—11, 2026	9-12	\$3490-\$3890
Nagaoka, Japan	June 16—24, 2026	8-12	\$4390-\$4790
Nagaoka, Japan—Harashin	July 27—Aug. 5, 2026	9-11	\$550
Mbabane, Eswatini	May 27—June 6, 2026	9-12	\$5190-\$5590
Bandung, Indonesia	June 2027	8-11	TBD

See pages 4-5 for more information.

APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

To apply, complete the online application and include a copy of last report card, recommendations from two teachers, and one-page essay: "Describe experiences I have had that prepare me for the role of a youth ambassador of Fort Worth" by **Oct. 17, 2025**. You will be contacted to schedule a personal interview in early November where you must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

COST 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 Dec. 1, 2025**. Final balance is due 45 days prior to departure. **Deposits will be refunded if exchanges are postponed or cancelled by Fort Worth Sister Cities.**

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Fort Worth Sister Cities International offers three opportunities to obtain scholarships for Youth Ambassador Exchanges. Each scholarship has different requirements and include additional items, as well as the standard application. **Please read carefully to make sure you understand the requirements.** You may apply for more than one.

YAMAGATA EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created to honor two community leaders, the late Tadashi and Elaine Yamagata.

- Covers up to \$2,000 of exchange (not including \$500 program fee)
- Only current 10th and 11th graders are eligible
- Applicants must submit a second essay on "How my leadership and volunteer service has impacted the community," as well as, a resume outlining leadership and community service. Applicant must also attend a second interview.
- Recipients are expected to join the youth board and volunteer for Fort Worth Youth International.

HARASHIN SCHOLAR

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

- Scholarship applies only to Harashin exchange to Nagaoka, Japan
- Covers entire cost (except \$550 program fee)
- Only current 9th – 11th graders are eligible
- Must participate in reciprocal exchange in July and host their Japanese brother/sister
- Recipients are expected to serve on the Fort Worth Youth International board

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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

- Need-based and limited
- Scholarship amounts range from \$100-\$1,000
- Applicants must complete the Scholarship Request Form and submit their last household tax return
- Recipients are expected to volunteer for the Fort Worth Youth International

REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY



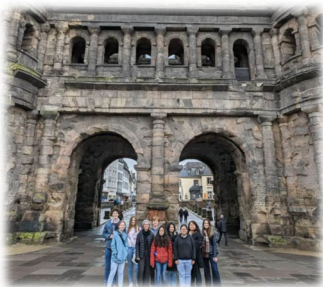
Experience Italian culture in historic Reggio Emilia while staying with welcoming host families. Explore 12th-century cathedrals, palazzos, the Municipal Theater, and famous Parmigiano cheese factories. Enjoy day trips to Florence to see the Uffizi Museum and Michelangelo's David, plus Verona with its Romeo and Juliet sites and Roman ruins. Your adventure concludes with a farewell pasta party with your host family and new friends saying "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, and a possible cruise down 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. 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. You'll step back in time to experience ancient Roman history while enjoying the scenic beauty of this charming riverside city.

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.



NÎMES, FRANCE

Located in southern France between the Mediterranean Sea and Cévennes mountains, Nîmes is known as the "French Rome." Founded by Romans before 118 B.C., the city captivates visitors with ancient ruins including the Roman amphitheater, Pont du Gard aqueduct, and Maison Carrée. Immerse yourself in French language and culture while discovering that certain "je ne sais quoi" you can only find here.



MBABANE, ESWATINI



Discover "The Kingdom of Smiles," Eswatini, bordered by South Africa and Mozambique. Experience wildlife safaris, museums, and traditional Swazi culture in Mbabane, the capital nestled in rolling hills with cool 45-65°F temperatures. You'll visit schools and community centers, sharing Texas culture while learning from local students. The journey includes a 2-3 day excursion to Johannesburg, South Africa..

NAGAOKA, JAPAN—HARASHIN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Since 1990, the Harashin Co. 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 in July 2025.



BANDUNG, INDONESIA—FOR 2027



Explore Bandung, "The Paris of Java" - West Java's capital known for its Dutch colonial charm and status as Indonesia's educational hub. Stay with welcoming host families surrounded by tea plantations and rice paddies. Visit schools to share cultures, learn Batik art and traditional Sundanese dance. Includes a tour to Yogyakarta to see Borobudur, the world's largest 8th-century Buddhist monument.