

TEMPE SISTER CITY CORPORATION 2021 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

THE SISTER CITY CONCEPT: City affiliations between the United States and the other countries became a national effort when President Eisenhower proposed the People-to-People program at a White House Conference in 1956. To date, 1,200 American cities representing all 50 states have affiliated with 2,100 cities in 125 countries around the world. The objective of the program is to create goodwill and further international understanding at the community level on a continuing, long - term basis. It is not a movement to convert others to our democratic ideals, but rather a way to help learn about the people of other countries, their customs, their similarities as well as differences, and help chart a better road to understanding in the world. The Sister City program provides a vehicle by which cities in the United States can find a forum for this interchange of information, ideas, and people through the process of affiliation with cities of similar interests in other countries. The President of the United States has historically been the Honorary Chairman, and the program has widespread support from the State Department down to the local City Council. Former Tempe Mayor and United States Congressman, Harry Mitchell, was Vice President of the Tempe Sister City Corporation for many years. Tempe's sister city relationships began with Skopje, Macedonia in 1971 and has grown with the affiliations of Regensburg, Germany in 1976; Lower Hutt, New Zealand in 1981; Zhenjiang, China and Timbuktu, Mali (Africa) in 1990; Beaulieu sur Mer, France in 1997; Carlow, Ireland in 1998; Cuenca, Ecuador in 2009; Cusco, Peru and Trollhattan, Sweden in 2014 and Agra, India in 2016.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: Each applicant must be a United States citizen, live in Tempe, be a junior in high school, be in good health (and, upon request, be able to supply a doctor's statement of verification), and commit to live in Tempe for his/her senior year of high school.

Due to COVID-19 and the resulting worldwide pandemic, we are in unprecedented times. We will continue to closely monitor the ever-changing news of the day from reliable sources.

The first priority of the Tempe Sister City Board is the safety of our delegates and their respective families in Tempe and abroad. Consequently, international travel in the summer of 2021 is not guaranteed. Our board will determine if travel is feasible and realistic in 2021. A Virtual International Exchange is being developed in lieu of actual physical travel.

Both student exchanges provide opportunities to make new friends, share cultural perspectives, practice critical 21st century language skills, and to build connections around the world. In addition, being selected as a delegate, includes the honor of serving as an ambassador for Tempe and the United States and the benefits of building a strong college resume.

Thank you, for your time and consideration, as we all move forward in these uncharted waters.

PURPOSE OF EXCHANGE: To provide an opportunity for Tempe students and families to develop understanding among the people of Regensburg, Skopje, Lower Hutt, Zhenjiang, Beaulieu sur Mer, Carlow, Cuenca, Cusco and Trollhattan through a family living experience. The Tempe Sister City Corporation Selection Committee makes the final decision regarding the city to which each student will travel.

TIME COMMITMENT: During the selection process, absence from an interview or selection activity will result in being disqualified. Once selected, all delegates are required to attend orientation and, if applicable, language classes prior to departure; participation in, and play an active role, in the Tempe Sister City Youth Group and its activities; give talks about the exchange experience; work at the organization's fundraisers and, in general, promote the exchange program.

RESPONSIBILITY ABROAD: To be cooperative at every point of family living; to be helpful with the household and family duties; and to assume the same responsibility as the other members in the family. Each student is expected to participate in as many activities as possible and relate learning experiences of living in a host country to others upon his/her return to Tempe.

COST: All travel expenses will be paid by the Tempe Sister City Corporation and all delegates will be home hosted. Delegates are to provide their own spending money. All delegates home host their “brother/sister” for five weeks upon their return to Tempe. Group activities and fundraisers are planned to reduce the cost of hosting. Money for expenses is available if needed.

APPLICATIONS: Applications can be downloaded at www.tempesistercities.org and are available at public high schools in Tempe and at private schools throughout the Valley, and the Tempe Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 2nd Floor. **Completed applications must be submitted on-line, mailed, delivered in person or emailed and received no later than 5:00 p.m., December 28, 2020.** Complete on-line at www.tempesistercities.org. Deliver to: City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, Second Floor, 31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona 85281. Mail to: City Clerk’s Office, City of Tempe, P.O. Box 5002 Tempe, Arizona 85280. Allow at least four days for mailing. **OR** Email to: 2021studentapplicant@tempesistercities.org

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS OF EXCHANGE STUDENTS: The Tempe Sister City organization and the Selection Committee need the support of the parents. Membership in the organization is required of the parents of the students selected for the program, at a cost of \$35.00 per year for the family. All delegates’ families are required to home host the international “brother/sister” for approximately five weeks in July and August. The parents should be aware of the need to have their student available to participate in all activities and events upon their return home. Additionally, parents are required to participate in the organization’s fundraising activities, which include, but are not limited to the Tempe Sister City Way Out West Oktoberfest and activities at the Hackett House.

SELECTION PROCESS: All applicants will participate in two individual interviews and one joint parent/applicant interview conducted by the Student Exchange Selection Committee. Applicants will also be required to attend an informal social night. Final selection will be made on **February 26, 2021**. Applicants who are selected are required to attend a party that evening.

SPECIAL NOTES: The Tempe Sister City Corporation Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke the selection of any delegates prior to departure and also to determine the need for an early return to Tempe of any delegate at their parent’s expense, due to any misconduct.

PASSPORTS: Obtaining a passport and any visas required is the responsibility of the delegate and his/her family. The passport must be received prior to **May 1, 2021**. Delegates should apply immediately following their selection.

