

Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, Illinois, Inc.



**To APPLICANTS and PARENTS of PROSPECTIVE
YOUTH AMBASSADORS for the SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF BELVIDERE**

Thank you for your interest in our Youth Exchange Program. The Sister Cities Association of Belvidere is looking forward to another summer of Youth Exchanges, providing a genuine family experience in another country for teens of Belvidere/Boone County and those of our Sister Cities of Vaux-le-Pénil, France and Schwieberdingen, Germany.

We are looking for a total of four (4) teens from Belvidere/Boone County who would like to experience life in a foreign country. The four teens chosen will spend approximately two weeks living with host families in our Sister Cities in Europe; two going to Schwieberdingen, Germany and two going to Vaux-le-Pénil, France. The host families in these cities are carefully chosen by members of our corresponding European organizations.

WHO MAY APPLY TO BE A YOUTH AMBASSADOR? : Teens who are U.S. citizens between the ages of 15 and 19, who are a Boone County Resident and who have not previously served as an ambassador for Sister Cities, may apply. Knowledge of a foreign language, especially the language of the country selected to visit, is a plus.

WHEN? : A two week visit to either France or Germany will take place around July 15th and August 1st. Exact dates depend on school schedules and have not yet been set.

WHAT WILL IT COST? : Costs will include the price of a passport, a round-trip airplane ticket and other expenses incurred outside of your host-home during your trip, such as souvenirs and other necessities.

Belvidere Sister Cities Association will award a stipend of \$1,500.00 to each of the four teens selected to assist with these expenses. Room and board will be provided by the host families.

HOW DO I APPLY? : **Applications will be accepted after January 1, 2024.** Applicants will fill out and return the following items to the Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, Illinois, Attention: Youth Exchange Program, PO Box 1822, Belvidere, IL 61008. . The complete application packet to be returned will include:

- 1) Completed application form
- 2) 100 to 150 word essay explaining **“Why I would like to be a Youth Ambassador”**
- 3) Three (3) letters of recommendation with contact information. Two of the three letters of recommendation should be from a teacher, counselor, community leader or minister. The third one may be from a friend.

The DEADLINE for receipt of the complete application packet is February 01, 2024

WHAT THEN? : After reviewing all of the applications, the Selection Committee will contact each applicant to arrange for an interview on February 19th, unless other arrangements are made.

IF CHOSEN: If selected to represent the Sister Cities Association of Belvidere as a Youth Ambassador, you will be asked to sign a **“Code of Ethics” agreement** and submit proof of **“Health and Personal Liability Insurance”** as a requirement for participation in our program.

Need further information?
Contact Youth Exchange Coordinators:
Brad Peters (815) 547-4566
Kris Meek (815) 222-8063

Or visit us at belvideresistercities.org

Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, Illinois, Inc.



PO Box 1822, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

YOUTH AMBASSADOR APPLICATION 2024

Photo

Date _____

I would like to be a Youth Ambassador to the following Belvidere Sister City:

_____ Schwieberdingen, Germany

_____ Vaux-le-Pénil, France

_____ Either city

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Sex: M F

Date of Birth: _____ I am a U.S. Citizen (required): yes _____ no _____

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

Names of Parents: _____

Home Address: _____

My Home Phone:(815) _____ Email: _____

Father's Work Phone : _____ Email: _____

Mother's Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Siblings-Name, Age & School: _____

_____ (over)

List activities, hobbies, things you like to do; awards received & recognition given: _____

Have you studied any foreign languages? Which ones and how many years?

1. _____ Yrs. 2. _____ Yrs.

Have you ever traveled outside the U.S.? _____ Where? _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please write an essay of 100 to 150 words that explains *“Why I would like to be a Youth Ambassador”*.

For the Parents:

Health: Concerns, observations and precautions to take: _____

Other comments: _____

Signature: _____ (applicant) Signature: _____ (parent)

(parent)

DIRECTIONS: APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 1, 2024

The complete application, including the essay and three letters of recommendation with contact information and indicating how this person knows you, must be received at the address below by February 01, 2024. Two of the three letters of recommendation should be from a teacher, counselor, community leader or minister. Interviews will be conducted on February 19, 2024 unless other arrangements are made. If selected, you will be asked to sign a “Code of Ethics” agreement and submit proof of Health and Personal Liability Insurance.

Please return your complete application to:
Sister Cities Assoc. of Belvidere
Attention: Youth Exchange Program
PO Box 1822
Belvidere, IL 61008

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