

**Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, Illinois, Inc.**



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**To PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS to become YOUTH EXCHANGE  
HOST FAMILIES for the SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF BELVIDERE**

Thank you for your interest in participating in our Youth Exchange Program as a Host Family.

In an effort to provide an opportunity for families in our community to learn about our Sister Cities in Europe and at the same time strengthen our relationships with these cities, we have established an exchange program for high school aged youth. We have had successful youth exchanges with our Sister Cities, Schwieberdingen, Germany and Vaux le Penil, France since 1999

In this exchange, four teenagers from Belvidere/Boone County are given the opportunity to live with a host family in one of our Sister Cities. Two teens spend approximately two weeks in Vaux-le-Pénil, France and two teens spend two weeks in Schwieberdingen, Germany. In a reciprocal arrangement, we then welcome two teens from each of our Sister Cities into our community so that they can experience life in Belvidere and the United States.

We are now looking forward to the summer of 2026. **We are looking for four (4) families living in the Belvidere/Boone County area who have teenagers and would be willing to host a teenager from Schwieberdingen or Vaux le Penil for a period of approximately two weeks.**

**WHO? :** Families with teenagers living in the Belvidere/Boone County area are invited to apply. You will be asked to open up your home to a French or German 'son' or 'daughter' for a period of two weeks.

**WHEN? :** A two week visit will take place somewhere between the end of July and the middle of August. Exact dates depend on school schedules and have not yet been set.

**WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR FAMILY? :** Host families are asked to provide 'room and board' in a safe family environment for this two week period. It is our hope that our guests will be included as a family member in the events of everyday life, thus learning about our community and life in the United States. We suggest that expenses incurred as a family are covered by the Host Family. Each guest should, however, have ample spending money to cover some expenses outside of the home or non-family activities. Purchases and souvenirs should be at their own expense.

There are also several events organized by Sister Cities which we might ask that you attend or that you might need to provide transportation to for your teen.

**HOW DO I APPLY? :** Applicants are asked to fill out a Host Family application and agree to an interview at their home. Although we highly encourage you to make application to host by the end of February, applications will be received until suitable accommodations are arranged for our four guests. Mail your application to: Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, Illinois, Attention: Youth Exchange Program, P O Box 1822, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Need further information?  
Contact Youth Exchange Coordinators:  
Brad Peters (815) 547-4566  
Kris Meek (815) 222-8063  
Or visit us at [belvideresistercities.org](http://belvideresistercities.org)

**Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, Illinois, Inc.**



PO box 1822, Belvidere, IL 61008 / belvideresistercities.org

**HOST FAMILY APPLICATION 2026**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**We would like to host a teenager from:**

Schwieberdingen, Germany \_\_\_\_\_  
Vaux-le-Pénil, France \_\_\_\_\_  
either city \_\_\_\_\_

**We would like to host:**

a boy \_\_\_\_\_  
a girl \_\_\_\_\_  
either \_\_\_\_\_

**Teen applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Contact Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Contact Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of other children and relatives living in the home:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Although all the teens that have come here through our exchange program were quite fluent in English, it is good to be familiar with their language. Do any family members speak German, French or other languages? Is anyone studying a foreign language? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(over)

Would your guest have his/her own bedroom or share with someone? \_\_\_\_\_

Is smoking permitted inside your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have pets inside your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Your religious affiliation (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

In what activities and hobbies do members of your family participate during the summer?

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What sights in the Belvidere and Rockford area would you like to show your guest? What activities could you include him or her in with your family members? \_\_\_\_\_

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Other remarks or concerns of the parents: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Teen Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Host Parent or Guardian

Please return application to: **Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, IL**  
**Attention: Youth Exchange Program**  
**PO Box 1822**  
**Belvidere, IL 61008**

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