



The World is Your Backyard. Go Explore.



**Spring and Summer 2016
International Youth Exchanges**

China · Germany · Hungary
Italy · Japan · Mexico

Youth Ambassadors International Exchanges

Fort Worth has eight international sister cities ready to be explored. Sister Cities provides international inbound and outbound youth exchanges to give students a competitive edge in today's global society.

Application and Interview Process

To apply to become a Youth Ambassador, complete an application, have it signed by a parent or legal guardian and submit with required items by **Oct. 16, 2015**. Upon receipt of application, you will be contacted to schedule a personal interview in November and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Students selected as Youth Ambassadors:

- Live with host families gaining understanding of cultures of city visiting
- Visit schools to share Texas culture promoting Fort Worth to the world
- Recognized by city officials
- Participate in community service projects emphasizing volunteerism

Applicants selected as Youth Ambassadors will be notified in November and must attend the pre-travel orientation **Sunday, Dec. 6, 2:00—4:00 p.m.** Attendance is required and students must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian.

Scholarships

- Limited partial scholarships are available based on financial need.
- Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholarship is based on leadership and community service for up to \$2,000 for a program or exchange of applicant's choice.

2016 Youth Exchanges

	Dates	Approx. Cost
Reggio Emilia , Florence & Verona, Italy	March 12-20	\$2,300
Budapest, Hungary	March 12-20	\$2,300
Trier, Germany	March 12-20	\$2,300
Toluca, Mexico	March 12-20	\$1,200
Guiyang & Beijing, China	June 8-22	\$3,800
Nagaoka & Tokyo, Japan	June 22-July 1	\$2,500
Nagaoka, Japan - Harashin Scholars	July 27-Aug.4	\$350*

All dates and costs are approximations. Costs are based on a minimum number of students traveling. Side trips are subject to change.

**Not covered by scholarship.*

Costs and Deposit

Round-trip airfare, taxes, ground transportation, program fee, most meals, local excursion fees, day trips, youth hostels (where applicable), insurance and orientation materials are included. If selected, a **\$350 non-refundable deposit is due Dec. 1, 2015**. Final balance is due 45 days prior to departure.

2016 Youth Ambassador Exchanges

Reggio Emilia, Florence & Verona, Italy: March 12 – 20, 2016



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 Parmigiano Reggiano cheese factory. Enjoy a day excursion to the legendary city of Florence to visit the famous Uffizi Museum and Michelangelo's David. Also enjoy a day trip to Verona, the scene of Romeo and Juliet and explore the many famous ancient Roman ruins in the city center. Your adventure ends with a farewell pasta party with your host family and new friends bidding you **arrivederci!**

Budapest, Hungary: March 12 – 20, 2016

You will experience 2000 years of history unfolding in a city reborn several times from pre-Roman to Magyar time, to post Iron Curtain. As you journey through time in a city known for its richness in culture and architecture, you will 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 & Frankfurt, Germany: March 12 - 20, 2016



Dig through the history and heritage of Trier which is Germany's oldest city. Founded in 16 B.C. by the Romans, this city is nestled on the banks of the Moselle River. Fort Worth Youth Ambassadors will see history come to life with their new Trier host brother or sister. You will venture out into the city and explore the famous archaeological areas of Trier, medieval markets, theaters, museums, the Roman amphitheater, palaces and even take a bike ride along the Moselle while taking in the panoramic view of a countryside castle. Along with this already exciting adventure, you will visit other cities in Germany and stay in a youth hostel in Frankfurt. Treasure your timeless memories as you bid auf wiedersehen, leaving this beautiful

land with both new friendships and a new awareness of Germany's incredible history and culture.

Toluca, Mexico: March 12 - 20, 2016

Toluca is the capital of the State of Mexico located in a beautiful fertile plateau, surrounded by a mountain range crowned by the majestic volcano, Xinantécatl. Toluca is known for its natural beauty, hospitality, artisan markets and quaint restaurants. You will explore the migrating mystery of the monarch butterflies during an eco-tour of one of their winter sanctuaries. 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.

Guiyang & Beijing, China: June 8 — 22, 2016



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 to visit including the largest Buddhist monastery in the

Guizhou Province and also one of the largest waterfalls in China. This exchange will explore new customs and traditions unique to China. Activities will include participating in community service projects such as working with the Miao minority group. The students will also travel to Beijing to tour the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.

Nagaoka & Tokyo, Japan: June 22 — July 1, 2016

Immerse yourself in the tranquility of Nagaoka, 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 exotic culture and country.

Nagaoka, Japan: July 27 — Aug. 4, 2016 **Harashin Scholar Program**

Since 1990, the Harashin Company in Nagaoka has sponsored this unique program demonstrating a commitment to cultural enrichment by establishing the Harashin Scholarship Program. The Harashin Co. generously provides 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 Japan. This is a reciprocal exchange where the Fort Worth scholarship recipient must host a brother or sister from Nagaoka August 5- 13, 2016.



YAMAGATA EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

The Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholarship was created by Fort Worth Sister Cities alumni to honor two community leaders, the late Tadashi Yamagata and his wife, Elaine.



This annual award is open to students who are current sophomores or juniors and have demonstrated leadership and community involvement. Seniors who are members of the Sister Cities youth board are also eligible. This scholarship, up to \$2,000 not including a \$350 program fee, can go towards any youth program including spring and summer exchanges or the 2015 International Leadership Academy.

Applicants will be chosen based on an essay, academic standing, community service, teacher recommendations, resume and two interviews. Qualified applicants, along with a parent or guardian, will be required to attend a second interview on **Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 between 10:00 a.m. and noon.**

Scholarship recipients are expected to serve on the Fort Worth Youth International board for one year, give a presentation about their exchange at a future Sister Cities meeting and volunteer at the Sundance Santa fundraiser in December 2014. The award will be presented by Elaine Yamagata at the Fort Worth Sister Cities Holiday Party tentatively set for Dec. 6, 2015.

If applying for this scholarship, please include the following **additional items** along with the requirements listed on the Youth Ambassador Exchange Application:

- Second Essay: “How my leadership and volunteer service has impacted the community.”
- Resume outlining leadership and community service

2016 YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE APPLICATION

Application Deadline Oct. 16, 2015 by 4:00 p.m.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ DOB _____

School _____ Grade Level _____

HS Graduation Year _____ Email _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Home Phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

Indicate in numerical order your preference of countries to be considered for as a Youth Ambassador. Due to limited space, students may be selected for second or third preferences.

____ Reggio Emilia, Italy (9-12 grades) ____ Trier, Germany (9-12 grades)
____ Toluca, Mexico (8-12 grades) ____ Budapest, Hungary (9-12 grades)
____ Nagaoka, Japan (8-12 grades) ____ Guiyang, China (9-12 grades)
____ Nagaoka Harashin Scholars Exchange (9-11 grades) This is a scholarship-based exchange program. Participant must be able to host a brother or sister from Nagaoka August 5-13, 2016.

I would like to apply for a partial scholarship of \$_____. Applications available online.

I would also like to apply for the Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholarship.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Complete application, attach items below and fax, email, hand deliver or mail by Oct. 16, 2015.

- \$25 student membership fee. Check/money order made payable to Fort Worth Sister Cities
- Copy of last report card
- One page typed, double spaced essay on "Why I want to be a Youth Ambassador"
- **Yamagata Emerging Leaders applicants:** Resume and second essay noted in description.
- Recommendations from two teachers, faxed or emailed separately by the recommender

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TEACHER RECOMMENDATION 2016

The Fort Worth Youth Ambassador Exchange Program enables students to visit one of Fort Worth's sister cities in Italy, Mexico, Germany Hungary, Japan, or China. The student requesting this recommendation is applying to become a Youth Ambassador. While there 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. 16, 2015 by 4:00 p.m.

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 exchange program. **All comments will remain confidential.**



**CONNECTING GLOBALLY.
THRIVING LOCALLY.**

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