

## **What People Are Saying About the Program...**

### Phoenix Youth Ambassadors:

"I ate a fish head today..... it was strange. I was trying to eat a part of the cheek (I think), and all of the sudden I saw its eyeball. It was the strangest thing ever. Then I ate a bunny today too... Oh, and yesterday, I ate a centipede. And I have also had almost every part of a duck. I feel really brave. And most of the foods are realllyyyyy good and REALLY SPICY!"

### Marle Ethelbah, Gateway Early College High School- Chengdu, China

"Today, I woke up to my three sisters sleeping soundly in my bed. We had a sleepover last night, which was crazyyy and went late into the night. We received breakfast in bed and after, we put on our "cosies" (British for swim suits) and went to the lake. It was freezing cold water, but of course that didn't stop us; we were pros after our glacier lake adventure. After awhile we walked back home to Holly's house and got ourselves ready for the U.S. Consulate General's Fourth of July Party...hosted on July 6th. We tried on millions of dresses and finally were out the door on our way to the party. We arrived fashionably late after getting ourselves lost in the billionaire district. Once in the party, we got introduced to the U.S. Consulate who was the sweetest woman and was so surprised by my gift of See's Candy. We enjoyed eating and socializing with prominent politicians and superiors. The Mayor of Calgary, Dave Bronconnier, stopped by for a short visit and we got several photos with him and talked to him about Phoenix, Calgary, politics and the upcoming Stampede. He is a down to earth kind of guy and easy to get along with. He is very proud of us representing our country and promised to see us again before we leave for Phoenix. The three girls and I were the youngest people there by about twenty years, and we took full advantage of the orchestra playing in the garden by dancing and singing, "How atrocious!" After "illin" with the high society politicians, we hopped back in the car in our fancy dresses and heels and went out for ice cream cones!"

### Rosie de Queljoe, Xavier College Preparatory- Calgary, Canada

"Hey Misty!

Just wanted to be a good youth ambassador and tell you that we are all having an awesome time!! Families are good, food is delicious, and the weather is sooo nice. We love the two directors here too."

**Randi Yeager, Central High School- Himeji, Japan**

"Thank you so much for sending me to Hermosillo. It was the perfect place for me right now, just far enough away for me to feel adventurous and just close enough that I felt right at home quickly so I was able to learn the most in the three weeks cause it is such a short time. Plus, I like to think that my Spanish improved at least a tiny bit."

**Stephanie Dimpfel, Sunnyslope High School- Hermosillo, Mexico**

"Hey Misty!

Everything is great. Edoardo and I have a lot in common, and his family is very nice. We have been really busy and it seems like I've been almost everywhere in Sicily. I've been to Agrigento, the Valley of Temples, Piazza Armerena, Messina, the most southern point of Europe, and much more. Yesterday I visited Etna, played soccer, and hung out with Edoardo's friends. I have met A Lot of people. Today we went to the island Vulcano off northern Sicily where we biked around and tried the geothermal water/mud/sulfur bath... It smelled terrible but was really interesting... Tomorrow we are going to Taormina. The food is very different, but it is very good. Edoardo's mom loves to cook. Time has been flying. I wish I could stay longer :)... Bye for now! I will see you when I get back."

**Tanner Bennett, Chaparral High School- Catania, Italy**

**International Youth Ambassadors:**

"Hey Misty!

I've been home just over a week now, but it feels like so much longer. I miss Phoenix and all the amazing people I got to meet through the programme over there. I want to thank you so much for everything you did for me both before I traveled to Phoenix and while I was there. You found me an amazing family who I love and miss so much! They

all accepted me as their sister straight away and made me feel so welcome, while Karen and Mike did more than I ever expected in welcoming me into their home and treating me like a daughter. They gave me such an unforgettable experience of what life in Arizona is like, and we're all planning for them to come visit us over here next summer!

All the activities you had arranged for the group in Phoenix were so much fun and really memorable. Everyone always asks what was your favourite, but all of them were so different and fun that it's impossible to pinpoint a favourite. Just like you said before I decided on going (which turns out to have been possibly the best decision I've ever made), the Sister Cities programme has truly changed my life for the better. Every Ambassador now has friends in cities all over the world who we'll visit someday and never forget."

**Orla Fitzgerald- Ennis, Ireland**

"Thank you for one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I am still in constant contact with the vast majority of the group and truly wish I could be at the reunion to see my Phoenix family."

**Aoife Bradley- Ennis, Ireland**

**Phoenix Parent:**

"Hi Misty,

Thank you for your diligence in the meeting yesterday. I wanted to compliment you all on the professionalism with which you all handle what could still be considered delicate subjects in our current culture. I have a lot of respect for the program, as it is directed toward the goal of fostering appropriate and mature behavior and virtue among today's teens. We need more of this - to raise the virtue bar on our teens of today. Exposure to many of these other cultures helps to do this, I believe. Thanks again for all you do."

**April Yeager**

"Dear Misty,

Perhaps the greatest gift we have received from this program was not just gaining a new Japanese daughter/family member, but also a

whole new Japanese family friendship. I am now communicating, per Yurina's mother's request, with her so that Makiko can also learn English. Their compliments to us are almost overwhelming, so I guess we did well with Yurina. I say that because the Asian body language is hard to read/know, their English is most limited, and they are such people pleasers that perhaps only their actions really speak loudest of all. So I am grateful for the Kishi family, now a part of our lives. I figured you might like to get these kinds of updates.

We had the distinct honor of having all 42 Youth Ambassadors spend up to four hours in our home on Saturday after the final pool party. It was there they all cried and said their final goodbyes as a group.

I never knew this program could touch all of us to this degree.”

April Yeager

Parents Abroad:

“Hi Misty,

thank you for your reply,I have seen your calendar and its great. Today we went to the mayor of ramat gan. Mr zvi bar for a reception and he was very very nice to the boy and than offered us some more tours in Israel for them. The boys spoke to him and he gave them the feeling of an old friend and andres told me that he is such a nice person!

After that we shoed them the view from the 69th floor of ramat gam tower its spectacular!”

Liora- Ramat Gan, Israel