

**PHOENIX SISTER CITIES  
YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**ESTIMATED EXPENSES**

Total estimated costs of participation vary from \$ 1225.00 to \$ 2825.00, depending upon the airfare to each participant's destination exchange city:

<b>CITY</b>	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</b>
Calgary, Canada	550.00
Catania, Italy	1800.00
Chengdu, China	2000.00
Ennis, Ireland	1500.00
Grenoble, France	2100.00
Hermosillo, Mexico	650.00
Himeji, Japan	1200.00
Prague, Czech Republic	1800.00
Ramat-Gan, Israel	1815.00
Taipei, Taiwan	1500.00

The costs break down as follows:

**\$325**

**DEPOSIT**

Portions of the deposit are applied to a family membership in Phoenix Sister Cities as well as for a required host family background check. \$100 of the deposit is refundable upon the successful completion of the program and all Youth Ambassador duties, including post-program presentations and alumni activities until the next program commences.

**\$550-\$2100**

**AIRFARE & ASSOCIATED COSTS**

The airfare costs vary with the destination city. Participants are responsible for costs of their airline tickets and for associated travel, office, and processing fees.

**\$300**

**HOSTING COSTS**

These are estimated, miscellaneous, out-of-pocket costs associated with hosting a visiting exchange student during the Phoenix portion of the exchange program. (This does not include additional activities you may choose to do with the international student.)

**\$50-100**

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

International travel insurance is mandatory for all YAEP participants, and is arranged for by the program. Cost varies depending on the price of airfare. Coverage includes all emergency medical expenses while abroad and during travel to/from the destination city

## YAEP FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

- Phoenix Sister Cities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Cash and in-kind donations may be tax deductible (consult with your tax advisor).
- There are no application fees or payments due prior to being selected. The partially refundable \$325 deposit is due within 10 days of notification that the student has been accepted into the program, unless the student has qualified for a scholarship.
  - \$100 of the deposit is refundable if the student adheres to the code of conduct, attends all mandatory events without excessive tardiness for the duration of YAEP, and completes follow up presentations to their respective city committee and school class/club.
    - Deposit refund determinations are made at the end of October.
  - Failure to adhere to the code of conduct, unexcused absences, or uncompleted YAEP presentations results in the automatic forfeit of the refundable amount and potential dismissal from the program.
  - Forfeited refunds are allocated to the scholarship fund.
- Phoenix Sister Cities facilitates the purchase of airfare and travel insurance.
  - Airline quotes are requested via Phoenix Sister Cities' selected travel agencies to ensure routes with a minimum of 2.5-hours in layover time.
    - Factors influencing the purchase of airfare include airline age restrictions for minors, availability of 2.5-hour layover minimum, and airport accessibility (e.g. ease of transfer, airport efficiency, entry requirements, etc.).
  - Each group of youth ambassadors traveling to a sister city must have the same travel itinerary.
  - The organization will invoice individual families for the amount owed, applying any applicable scholarship funds or family-specified airline mileage.
    - The ability to use airline miles is not guaranteed and depends on the specific route and airline selected for travel.
- Students accepted into YAEP commit to raise funds for their respective host calendar activities
  - Various fundraising activities include a letter writing campaign and car wash. These efforts raise approximately \$750-1000 per student.
    - All monies raised support hosting program activities, e.g., charter buses, group trips outside Phoenix, occasional group meals, cultural activities, and more.
    - Funds raised **do not** offset travel expenses.
  - Funds raised but not used during a given program year are allocated towards alumni activities, community outreach, and other program efforts.
- Scholarships are determined on a percentage basis per demonstrated need. Scholarship applicants will be made aware of their qualifying allowance upon acceptance to the program. Scholarship applications are due at the time of program application,
  - Only completed scholarship applications, including supporting IRS transcripts, will be considered.
    - Special circumstances must be communicated directly with the program office prior to the program deadline to be considered for scholarships.
  - Scholarships vary depending on demonstrated need.
  - The scholarship percentage will apply to **all** program fees. This percentage may not fully cover all program costs. If this is the case, the student will be responsible for the remaining balance.
  - Payment plans are available; however, the balance must be paid in full prior to the student's departure in early June.
  - Required visas to Chengdu, China (approx. \$200 per student) are paid from the scholarship fund, including mailing fees to/from the Chinese consulate in Los Angeles.