PHOENIX Sister Cities
Discovery Changes Everything.

Youth Ambassador Exchange Program
INFORMATION GUIDE

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What is Phoenix Sister Cities?

Phoenix Sister Cities (PSC), established in 1972, is a not-for-profit, community-led organization with ten active sister cities relationships. The mission of Phoenix Sister Cities is to "create people-to-people relationships between the residents of Phoenix and its sister cities through commercial, educational, cultural and artistic exchange programs and events that create and sustain global, long-term, international partnerships and business opportunities for the citizens of Phoenix."

Phoenix Sister Cities is governed by a 36-member Board of Directors, which includes 25 Phoenix Sister Cities Commissioners appointed by the Mayor and Phoenix City Council. Phoenix currently supports 10 sister cities relationships: Calgary, Canada (1997); Catania, Italy (2001); Chengdu, China (1987); Ennis, Ireland (1988); Grenoble, France (1990); Hermosillo, Mexico (1976); Himeji, Japan (1976); Prague, Czech Republic (2013); Ramat-Gan, Israel (2005); and Taipei, Taiwan (1979).
Youth Ambassador Exchange Program

IN THEIR WORDS...

"The moment I stepped into Ireland I was greeted with nothing but kindness. Ennis maybe be a small city but it is filled with overflowing love." 
ALINA BOORSE, ENNIS, IRELAND, NORTH PHOENIX PREP ACADEMY

"This program gave me so many opportunities that I wouldn’t have gotten the chance to experience. Forming those personal relationships with other international teens and making changes on a scale much bigger than us is so incredible."
SONIA DIAS, TAIPEI, TAIWAN, DESERT VISTA

"I feel that I’ve gained a second family here in Hermosillo. I’m going to miss their sense of humor and easy banter, the way their sentences flow like curious music, and their open affection."
CHENOA COVINGTON, HERMOSILLO, MEXICO, SHADOW MOUNTAIN
Youth Ambassador Exchange Program

OVERVIEW

Phoenix high school students in their sophomore and junior year may apply to serve as a Youth Ambassador to one of Phoenix’s ten Sister Cities. Upon selection, students will be invited to participate in our Youth Ambassador Exchange Program, where they will develop leadership skills, global and cultural awareness, and represent not only Phoenix but the state of Arizona and the United States. Youth Ambassadors will receive unique training through our Academy Sessions that will be held once a month leading up to their departure. In these sessions, students are not only taught the valuable skills of diplomacy and communication, but also learn about their host country and what they can expect abroad. Prior to the exchange, Youth Ambassadors will also participate in event planning committees and fundraising activities.

Each Youth Ambassador will depart in the summer to spend approximately 2-3 weeks in the Sister City with which they are paired. They will live with a host family and an international counterpart where they will be fully immersed in the culture of the Sister City. While abroad, Youth Ambassadors can expect an eye-opening experience as they discover new places, build new international relationships, and learn more about themselves.
Shortly after the Youth Ambassadors return home from their host countries, their international counterparts will then travel to Phoenix to spend approximately three weeks living with a Phoenix Youth Ambassador. While the international counterparts are visiting, both the Phoenix and the international Youth Ambassadors will engage in fun trips and activities that will provide the international ambassadors with a well-rounded experience of Phoenix and the United States.

Following the program, Youth Ambassadors are expected to participate in a series of alumni events as well as opportunities to participate in promotional and recruitment projects for the next year’s cohort. By being a part of the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program, students become part of a global community, learn about different cultures, make great friends from around the world, and participate in a life-changing experience!
Application

WHERE WILL YOU GO?!

ONLINE APPLICATION: SHORT & LONG ANSWER ESSAYS, PHOTO, & SCHOLARSHIP FORM

TEACHER NOMINATION FORM

APPLY AT: HTTPS://WWW.PHOENIXSISTERCITIES.ORG/YOUTH-AMBASSADOR/
Application

1. Visit the website and explore the application materials. Review and download the PDF form to see all the questions and elements of the application you will need. Don’t forget to ask a teacher for a nomination before winter break. **The live Google application must be completed in entirety once opened.** It is recommended that applicants complete essay questions and additional documents separately on Word or similar program.

2. Gather all completed materials and open the live Google application form. Copy/paste essay responses and submit all other documents. Application must be completed in one sitting and cannot be opened again. Follow up with teachers to make sure nomination forms are submitted. Wait for the selection panel to read and review applications and schedule interviews.

3. If selected for an interview applicants will be invited to Exploration Day where they will participate in hands on activities and round robin style interviews with other select applicants. After Exploration Day, finalists will be invited to the finalist interviews where the last selections will be made. Upon final selection, applicants will be notified and the 2020 YAEP will begin.

Apply at: https://www.phoenixsistercities.org/Youth-Ambassador/
Mandatory Timeline

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>2.8</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
<td>EXPLORATION DAY</td>
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<td>2.10</td>
<td>6-8pm</td>
<td>FINALIST INFORMATION BRIEFING</td>
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<td>DEPARTURES BEGIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>ARRIVALS BEGIN</td>
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Not listed: monthly city committee meetings (varies between city selected)
**ESTIMATED FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

**OVERVIEW**

**DEPOSIT**  - $325 ($100 refundable)
Covers a family membership to PSC, background checks, training supplies and fundraising costs, etc.

**AIRFARE & FEES**  - $600–2200
Varies with destination. PSC books all flights. Miles may be used.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**  - $3–4 per day
Travel insurance is mandatory for all participants. Coverage includes emergency medical and political evacuation expenses.

**HOSTING COSTS**  - $300
Estimated costs not payable to PSC. Accounts for the estimated expenses for July when hosting an international student. Will vary between families.
SCHOLARSHIPS

MUST APPLY AT TIME OF APPLICATION

Scholarship applicants (due at the time of initial application) will be made aware of their qualifying allowance upon acceptance to the program.

Only completed scholarship applications, including supporting IRS transcripts, will be considered. Scholarships vary depending on demonstrated need.

Scholarship applications do not affect or influence program acceptance consideration. Scholarship status is for internal use only.
FUNDRAISING

Fundraising compliments the exchange experience. All funds collected during the car wash competition and letter writing campaign go directly towards summer hosting calendar activity costs in July. The funds do not support airfare or scholarships.

**CAR WASH COMPETITION**

Each youth ambassador is responsible for collecting $5 in base pledges prior to the start of the car wash. Pledges are collected based on the number of cars washed in the following weeks.

**TOTAL RAISED IN 2018**

$5,582

**LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN**

Youth Ambassadors personalize 30 letters with return envelopes requesting donations to the program's summer hosting activities. All campaign materials provided by PSC, including stamps. Donations may also be made online.

**TOTAL RAISED IN 2018**

$22,514
Phoenix Hosting Calendar

Sample July Activities

- Welcome Orientation
- American Holiday Celebration
- American Thanksgiving
- Waterpark Experience
- Musical Instrument Museum
- YAEP Talent Show
- Flagstaff Extreme Adventures
- YAEP Olympics
- ASU College Life
- Grand Canyon Day Trip
- Meet the Mayor
- Diamondback’s Game
- California (beach and theme park)
- Special Site Visits
- Botanical Gardens Flashlight Tour
- Prom
- Community Service
- Farewell Fiesta
ADVENTURES ABROAD
Where will you go?
Youth Ambassador Exchange Program

INFORMATION GUIDE

PHOENIX CITY HALL
20TH FLOOR
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85003

@pscyouthambassadors

phoenixsistercities.org
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