

Sister Cities International of Fresno



Student Ambassador Münster Application Package

2018 Program Year





Adventure Awaits!

TORREON
02 fev. 2001
Aeropuerto
Internacional
de la Ciudad
de México
Mexico



Markus Lewe & Family
Lord Mayor of Münster

Sister Cities International of Fresno

Student Ambassador Program

What is Fresno Sister Cities?

Fresno Sister Cities is a nonprofit organization, officially supported by the city of Fresno and our many citizen volunteers. Fresno Sister Cities is a Mayor-to-Mayor City partnership, with citizen diplomats volunteering on each committee. This international organization helps support the development of partnerships between US cities like ours and cities around the world. This program provides students with a unique opportunity to broaden their perception of the world while offering them an enriching summer exchange experience.

Join Fresno Sister Cities and become part of a powerful global network anchored in formal city-to-city agreements. Fresno has six official Sister Cities and one Friendship City:

- Münster, Germany
- Verona, Italy (Friendship City)
- Kochi, Japan
- Etchmiadzin, Armenia
- Afula, Israel (Inactive)
- Torreon, Mexico
- Châteauroux, France

The local chapter, Sister Cities International of Fresno, Inc., is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit and is run by volunteers. Sister Cities International is the national organization in Washington, D.C. that is partially funded by the U.S. State Department and other grants. The cost for our local program is \$2,200; the Washington offices have waived the \$3,250 additional fee that they normally charge for a student to be involved. Fresno's local exchange has been running a different type of program for over 30 years and is a host-to-host exchange; as such we are not required to collect this additional fee for students to participate in the program.

Educational exchanges at the high school level provide young people with the opportunity to develop inter-personal skills under the umbrella of citizen diplomacy. These exchanges are often described by participants as "a life-changing experience." Many current leaders in international affairs or diplomacy can trace their interest to their first sister city exchange.

The Sister City Concept

Sister Cities are relationships which create lifelong friendships to support peace and prosperity among communities through people-to-people "citizen diplomacy" and exchanges in culture, education, business, and municipal administration. City affiliations between the cities in the United States and cities around the world became a national effort when President Eisenhower proposed the People-to-People program at a White House Conference in 1956. Eisenhower envisioned an organization that could be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

To date, 47 states have sister city relationships, with a total of 1847 international cities in 136 countries. The President of the United States has historically been the Honorary Chairman and the program has widespread support from the State Department down to the Fresno City Council.

About Münster

The Fresno Sister Cities Student Ambassador Exchange in Summer 2018 is a direct exchange between Fresno and Münster, Germany. Münster lies in the North-Rhine, in the rich Westphalia region of Germany that borders the Netherlands. Münster is known as the Bicycle Capital of Germany. A promenade rings the old city center of Münster and is now a large tree-lined bike path that traces along the site of this ancient city's wall. Münster has a fascinating historical heritage and a welcoming atmosphere.

Münster is a city of science and learning, the City of Westphalian Peace, the capital city of bicycles and Germany's Climate Protection Capital. Westphalia's longstanding regional capital is a young city, with more than 50,000 students. It is an outstanding place to live, work, learn and research. It is a place where urban culture, municipal diversity and first-class rural recreation intersect.

The Aasee is the meeting place for recreation, sport and relaxation. Lake Aa is situated in the heart of the city with its vast green spaces. It was named "Europe's most beautiful park" in 2009.

The weather in Münster is much cooler than Fresno. During the summer, the average high temperature is in the low 70s F (22 C). Expect 2 – 3 inches of rain to fall during the five-week stay.



Lake Aa

Student Ambassador Eligibility and Requirements

1. All students completing grades 9 – 11 by the end of the 2017-2018 school year at a Fresno County high school are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to students studying the German language, although it is not a requirement for this exchange.
2. Applicants must be eligible to attend a Fresno County school during the 2018–2019 school year.
3. Applicants must be able to obtain a U.S. Passport prior to the date of departure. Instructions on how to obtain a passport are included in this packet.
4. Applicants must be able to host a German student for 4 -5 weeks in their home from September to October 2018. The German student will need to be provided with their own bed, meals, transportation and a safe, comfortable family environment.
5. All adult members in the ambassador's family must be able to pass a criminal background check.
6. By participating in the program, the family will become a member of Fresno Sister Cities International.
7. At least one family member must volunteer to serve on a short term committee (hospitality, social media, carpool, etc.)
8. All required documents as outlined in this application packet must be submitted by January 11, 2018.

No impersonal representation of a culture can fully communicate its reality to others who have never known its living substance. Through personal relationships our curiosity can be fulfilled by a sense of knowledge; cynicism can give way to trust, and the warmth of human friendship can be kindled.

- President John F Kennedy

Student Ambassador Time Line

1. January 31, 2018: Application packets must be submitted. There are 20 Student Ambassador Positions currently available. A \$135.00 deposit will be due upon acceptance to the program.
2. February 1, 2018: It takes 4-6 weeks to process a passport. Passport Applications submitted by February 1st should have plenty of time for processing. A 3 week expedited processing time is available at an additional charge. A Minor Passport Book requires an \$80.00 application fee and a \$25.00 execution fee. Use Form DS-11.
4. March 15, 2018: Funds must be paid in full.
5. Late June 2018: Fresno Student Ambassadors depart. (Subject to change pending airfare confirmation.)
6. Students will spend 5 weeks in Germany hosted by a family with a student of the same sex and relative age. Fresno Students will attend a German school with their partner for 1 week.
7. The remaining time in Germany will be during the German student's Summer vacation.
8. Early August 2018: Fresno students return home. Our goal is to have the students back in Fresno about two weeks before school begins since many students have outside activities that require their presence here.
9. Early September 2018: German Student Ambassadors will arrive in Fresno.
10. Fresno families will assist in enrollment procedures for German students in the local high school.
11. Early September to early October: German students will attend school with their exchange partners.
12. Early October: German Student Ambassadors return home.

Application Instructions:

1. Carefully complete the Student Ambassador Application. Please type or print clearly.
2. Complete the Student Ambassador Essay. This needs to be a minimum of one page, typed or handwritten. Attach additional pages as necessary. 500 – 1000 words.
3. Complete the Host Family Application, Pages 7 – 8.
4. Please attach photos of your home as detailed on the Host Family Album, Pages 9 – 10.
5. Complete the Host Family Rules. We will send this document to your exchange partner prior to their arrival in Fresno. Make sure to include a parent signature.
6. Obtain two nominations from two different trusted adults who are not immediate family members. Teachers are often the best source for nominations. The nominations can be submitted by email or US Mail—filling the form out on the computer and returning by email is preferred. See instructions on the back of the nomination form.
7. Return completed documents to Linda Ginise, Ginises@att.net via email or US mail, 3020 W. Brompton Ln, Fresno, CA 93711, by January 31, 2018.

Student Ambassador Application

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Country of Citizenship: _____

Home Address: _____

Student email: _____ Student Phone: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Languages spoken in the home: _____

List school, church and community activities in which you participate: _____

List hobbies, interests & work experience: _____

What are your plans for the future—education, career? _____

Have you traveled abroad? _____

If so, where? _____

Religious preference? _____

Do you attend religious services regularly? _____

Attach student picture

Do you have any allergies or food requirements? _____

Do you have any other allergies or health concerns? _____

List any medications you take regularly: _____

List chores you do at home: _____

Describe yourself on each characteristic using the following scale:

1 = Rarely/slightly

2 = Moderately/Sometimes

3 = Often/Very Much

___ Extroverted

___ Calm

___ Easy-going

___ Introverted

___ Patient

___ Serious

___ Adaptable

___ Sense of humor

___ Emotional

___ Organized

___ Group-Oriented

___ Shy

___ Stubborn

___ Individualistic

___ Talkative

___ Open-minded

___ Adventurous

___ Curious

List sports activities which you enjoy or participate in: _____

What type of music do you enjoy? _____

What are your favorite subjects in school? _____

What type of cultural activities do you enjoy (theater, concerts, etc.)? _____

Do you or anyone in your family smoke cigarettes? _____

I, _____ understand that I am applying for the position of Student Ambassador of the City of Fresno and of the United States. I am committed to maintaining responsible behavior during the course of this program. I have discussed with my parents the expectations that are required from me in order to participate as a Student Ambassador. I also understand that any abusive, illegal or irresponsible behavior will be reported to the program and may cause removal as an ambassador. I am committed to being a respectful guest and a gracious host during this experience. This means I will take part in family activities as well as watch over and take care of my partner to ensure they have a positive experience while in Fresno.

Applicant Signature

Date

Student Ambassador Passport

Student Ambassadors traveling abroad are required to have a valid US Passport. Minor Passport Books are available for applicants under the age of 16. Students over the age of 16 will require an Adult Passport Book.

Application Fee		Other Fees
Adult Passport Book	\$110	\$25
Minor Passport Book	\$80	\$25
Expedited Service	\$60	

Steps to submit a US Passport Application in Person

- Form DS-11** Fill out Form DS-11: Application for a US Passport. This form is available at the US Post Office and online in PDF Format at travel.state.gov.
- Passport Photo** Take a Passport photo to attach to the Passport Application. Passport photo service is available at Costco, Walgreens, FedEx, Wal-Mart, etc. Costco has the lowest price, \$4.95.
- Documentation** Prepare the following documents to present at the time of application:
 - Proof of US Citizenship (one of the following)
 - Previous US Passport
 - Certified Birth Certificate
 - Proof of Identity (one of the following)**
 - Valid Driver's License
 - Certificate of Naturalization
 - Certificate of Citizenship
 - Identifying witness who has proof of ID (Parent/Guardian). Have a parent/guardian present photo ID if the minor does not have an ID or his/her own.
- Submit Application** Appear in person at the time of application to one of the following locations:
 - Fresno Downtown Post Office, 1900 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706, 559-497-7675. Passport processing hours: T - F, 9:30 - 12:30 PM. No appointment needed.
 - Fresno State Division of Continuing and Global Education, 5005 N. Maple Avenue, Room 130 Kremen Education Building, Fresno, CA 93740, 559-278-0013. Passport processing hours: M - F, 9:00 - 2:00 PM

FYI: Speaking from personal experience, the Fresno State office is by far the easiest way to get this done.

Host Family Application

Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Father's email: _____

Father's Phone: _____
Cell Work Home

Mother's Name _____ Occupation: _____

Mother's email: _____

Mother's Phone: _____
Cell Work Home

Home Address (Street/City/State/Zip) _____

Mailing Address if different _____

Is the home the site of a functioning business? (ex Daycare, farm, etc.) _____

Others (including children) living in this residence:

Name	Date of Birth	Sex	Relationship	School (if applicable)

Please list any pets: _____

What type of rooming arrangement can you offer? _____

Will you be able to provide transportation to points of interest? _____

Are you willing to submit to a criminal background check? _____

Are you able to provide 3 square meals a day in the home? _____ Note: Meals purchased at school are the exchange student's responsibility. In addition, if the student chooses to purchase food outside of the home, it is at his/her own expense.

Are you able to accommodate specific dietary needs of an exchange student? _____

The signature of the below host parent(s) indicates our family understands and agrees to the following:

- We will provide a safe and caring environment.
- We will not allow money to change hands between our exchange student and any family members. This includes loaning money to the student and borrowing money from the student
- We are not receiving needs-based government subsidies for food or housing (Ex: welfare, food stamps)
- We understand that our student has been raised with different family expectations, religion and culture. We will work with our student to resolve misunderstandings when they occur. We will notify the Exchange Coordinator, Linda Ginise, if any issues arise that require outside assistance.
- We understand that our student may, with host family permission, travel out of town overnight with our family, the school, church or other approved group.
- We understand that it is encouraged to opportunities to visit local points of interest.
- We understand that our exchange student is not allowed to drive a motor vehicle, per state law.
- In the unlikely event that our student needs to be moved, we understand that it may take up to 2 weeks to find a new home.
- We understand and grant permission to Fresno Sister Cities to use photographs, quotes and social media postings in which we may appear for promotion or publicity of this or future programs.

I, _____, have discussed with my child my expectations and guidelines for the trip abroad. I also understand my own responsibilities. I commit to showing our German guest the utmost in hospitality while he/she is in Fresno and will make him/her a part of our family for the five week stay.

I am aware that I am responsible for transportation to and from Los Angeles or San Francisco International Airport for my own child's departure and arrival as well as transportation to the Student Ambassador Award Ceremony at Fresno City Hall in the Fall.

I know that it is my responsibility to register the German exchange student in my local high school and that this may require me to be available during the work day to complete the registration process.

I acknowledge that if my child needs to be sent home from Germany as a result of irresponsible behavior, I will be responsible for the additional travel costs.

Parent Signature

Date

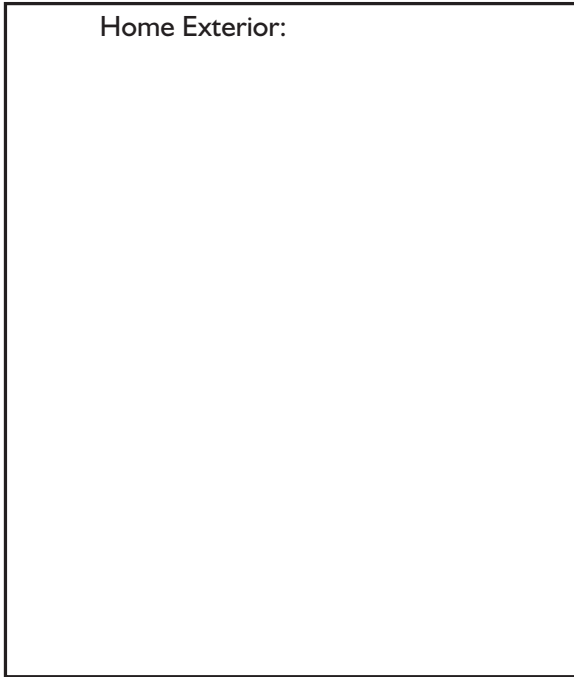
Parent Signature

Date

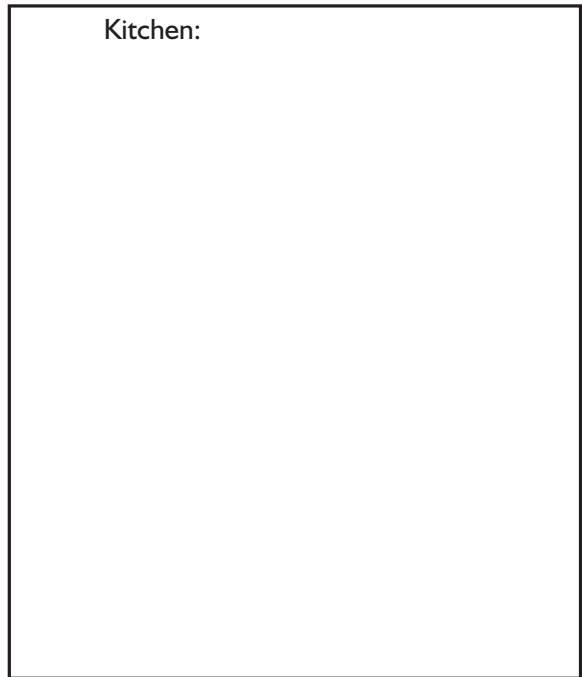
Host Family Album

Please attach photos of you, your family and your home, including the exterior, kitchen, student's bedroom, student's bathroom and family and living areas. This will help your exchange partner know what to expect and feel more comfortable about traveling to Fresno.

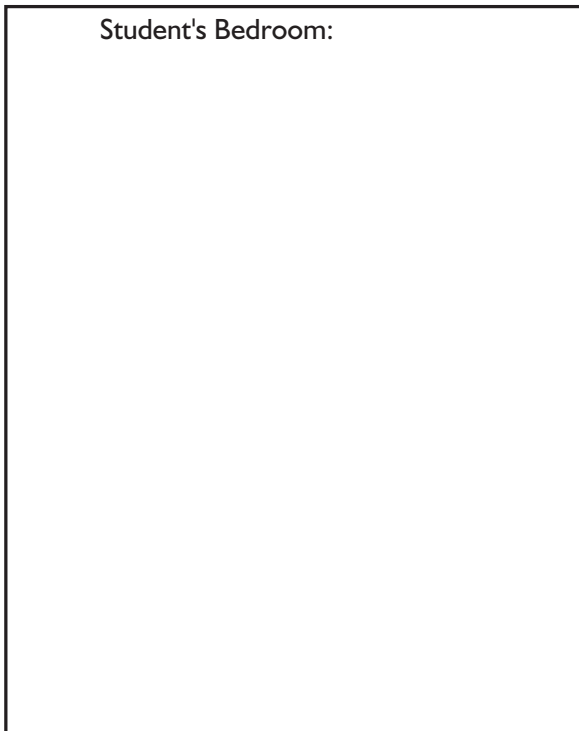
Home Exterior:



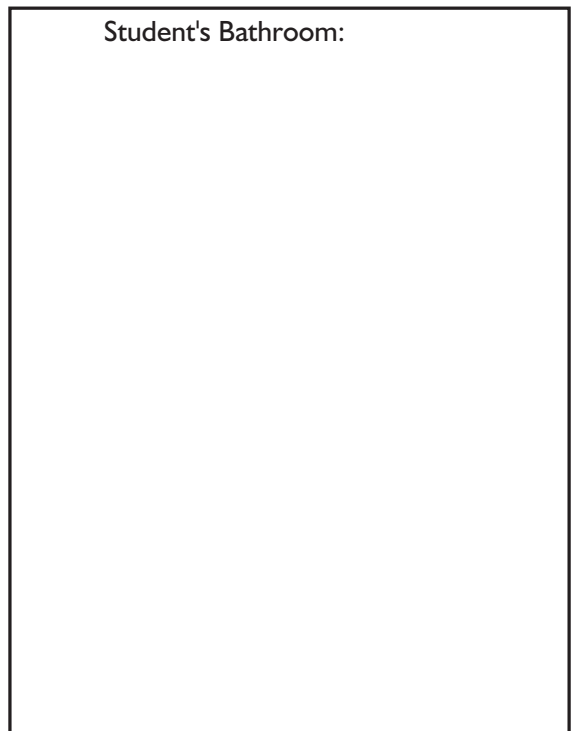
Kitchen:



Student's Bedroom:

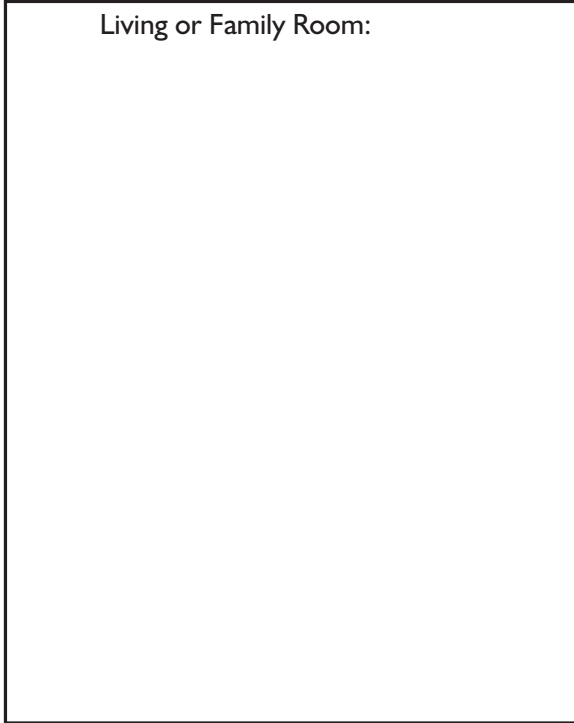


Student's Bathroom:

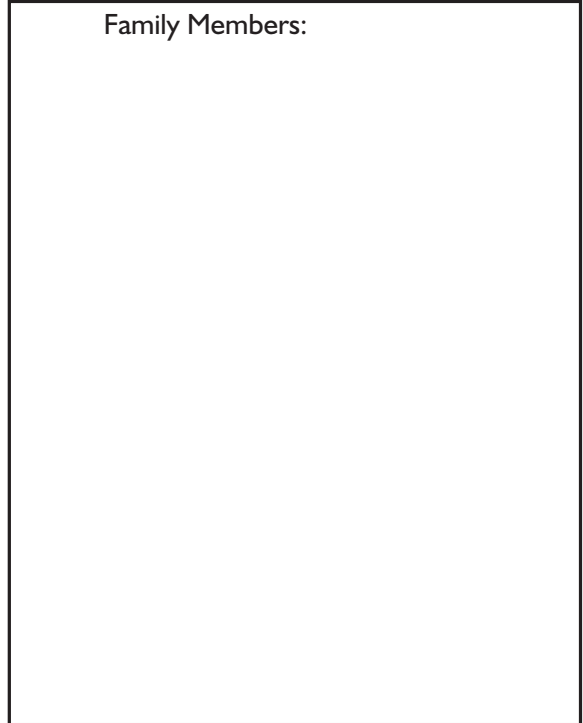


Host Family Album (page 2)

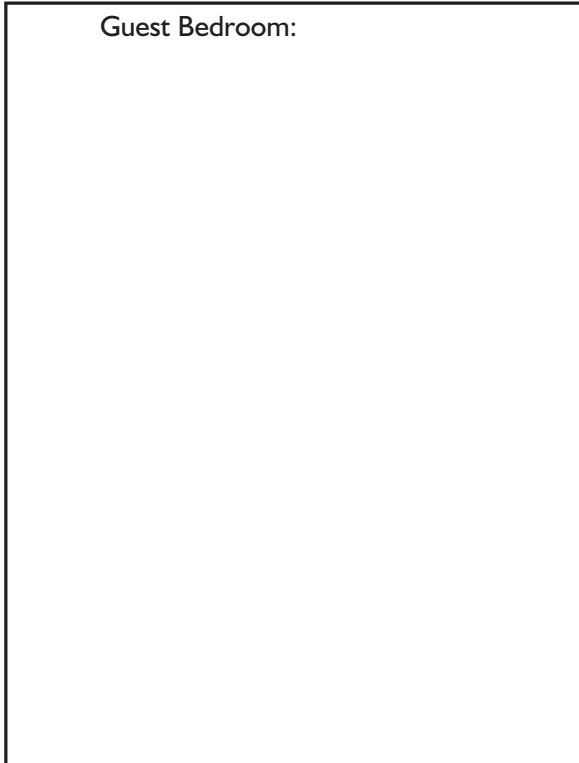
Living or Family Room:



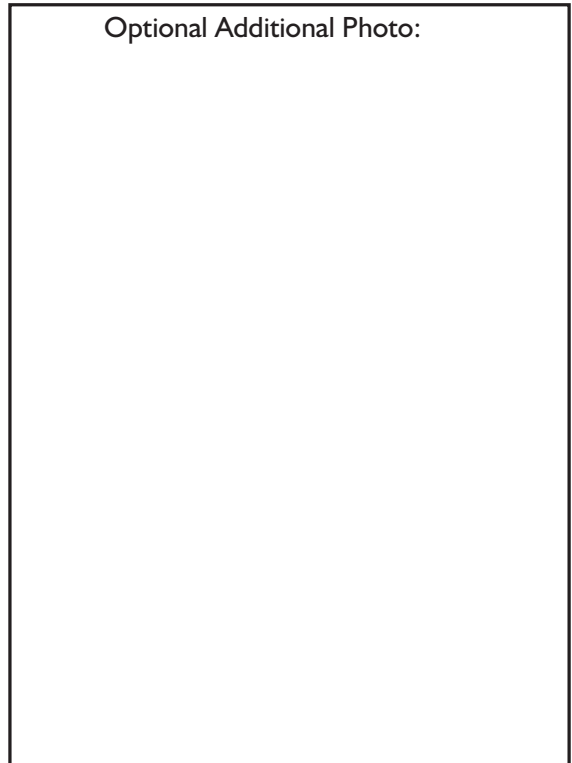
Family Members:



Guest Bedroom:



Optional Additional Photo:



Host Family Rules

As part of the information provided on your Host Family Application, we ask that you explain to the student your household rules and personal expectations. It is very important that your student be treated as a member of your family. Please fill out this form with your application so we can share this information with the exchange student before he/she arrives.

1. Smoking: _____

2. Curfew (school nights): _____

Curfew (weekend): _____

3. Chores: _____

4. Church (include number of times/hours/week attendance will be expected): _____

5. What personal expenses do you expect to be covered by the student? _____

6. Other Rules or Expectations: _____

Applicants and their families understand and acknowledge by their signatures that Fresno Sister Cities International maintains jurisdiction over all aspects of the exchange program. In the event of any problem between the student and the Fresno host family, Fresno Sister Cities reserves the right to remove the student at any time to resolve the situation.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Student Ambassador Exchange Program Nomination

The Fresno Sister Cities Commission provides selected Fresno County high school students the opportunity to live abroad in Fresno’s Sister City, Münster, Germany. Students live with a family in Münster for five weeks during the summer, then host a visiting Münster student in their own home here in Fresno. The student nominated should be capable of serving as an ambassador for our city and of adapting to cultural differences. We value your insights: Students who apply tend to be highly qualified, making the final selection difficult. **The information given will be confidential and available only to selected committee members.**

I hereby nominate _____ for consideration as a Student Ambassador in the Fresno Sister Cities Student Ambassador Exchange Program.

Your Information

Name	Date
Telephone	Relationship to Nominee
Email	Length of Relationship

Please evaluate the following characteristics of nominee on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (outstanding)

Characteristic	Rating
Accepts responsibility	
Cooperates/is able to adhere to rules	
Is independent	
Interested in learning	
Has leadership skills	
Is mature	
Has self confidence	
Has social skills	

What are the first words that come to mind when describing the nominee?

From your observations, how do others perceive the nominee socially?

Additional Comments:

Signature & Date:



TO SUBMIT THIS NOMINATION

Complete and save form. Attach it to an email with the subject line "FSC Nomination."
Send via email to Ginises@att.net or via US Mail to Linda Ginise, 3020 W Brompton Lane, Fresno, CA 93711
DEADLINE: January 11, 2018

Sister Cities Contact Information

Fresno-Münster Sister Cities Exchange Coordinators

James Ritchie

(559) 978-0630 cell

jandrewritchie@gmail.com (text or email OK)

Linda Ginise

(559) 439-5193 home

(559) 285-2223 cell

Ginises@att.net (text or email OK)

3020 West Brompton Ln

Fresno, CA 93711



Making a World of Difference!

