

# CORPUS CHRISTI SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

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## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SUMMER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Exchange Partners: Agen (France); Yokosuka (Japan)

## 2024 SCHEDULE AND APPLICATION



**Sister City Program**  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, USA



For more information email: [WendyH1@cctexas.com](mailto:WendyH1@cctexas.com)

# I. EXCHANGE PROGRAM TIMELINE

**November 9, 2023** 6:00pm Student Exchange Information Webinar – *Microsoft Teams Meeting*  
[Click here or scan QR to join the meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 356 217 736 81  
Passcode: m3qDvD



**December 15, 2023** Application deadline. See page 4 in this packet for details.

**January 21, 2024** Student interviews will be held at the Galvan House (1580 N Mesquite St, Corpus Christi, TX 78401) Students to be interviewed will be told the specific day and time of their interview. Students who are selected for the Summer Exchange Program will be notified as soon as possible.

A reception will be held to announce the new Student Ambassadors and to inform students which Sister City they will travel to.

**February 2024** **Training Sessions (specific dates and time TBD):**  
Training #1 - Orientation for students and parents  
Training #2 - Orientation for students and parents (if needed)

**June/July**  
Late June/  
Early July

Students leave Corpus Christi to go to their host county and live with a host family for 2 weeks. Students may be required to pay for 100% of their airfare, partial scholarships may be available. Students will pay for any personal expenses while abroad. The foreign host family will cover room/board plus plan local events and entertainment, emphasizing their culture.

Mid July Students return to Corpus Christi with a foreign student who will live with the American host family for 2 weeks. The American family is required to pay for the foreign student's room/board during this time, plus plan local events and entertainment, emphasizing our culture.

**Mid July/**  
**Early August**

The Sister Cities Committee will arrange a few activities while the students are in Corpus Christi. The place and dates of these activities are to be decided. Host families are responsible for arranging any additional activities at their own expense.

Students will be requested to give a 5-10 minute presentation at the closing event of the Student Exchange Program (specific date and time TBD).

The foreign guests return to their home countries.

## **II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **A. ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES MUST:**

- Be a Sophomore or Junior in High School in the 2023/24 school year.
- Reside in Corpus Christi city limits.
- Be available for all commitments during the exchange activities.
- Receive a recommendation by their High School counselor or designated school official.
- Be able to attend all necessary training sessions
- Be willing to represent their school, the City of Corpus Christi, the State of Texas, and the United States as a Goodwill Ambassador, both abroad and in the United States
- Obey all laws of the United States as well as the laws of their host country.
- Obtain travel insurance and medical insurance for traveling and living abroad.
- Be a good host while the host student is in the United States.
- Collaborate with their foreign guest and give a presentation about their exchange experience.

### **B. SELECTION CRITERIA:**

- Personality - humor, sincerity & sensitivity.
- Poise/Ability to communicate.
- Hobbies/Activities.
- Citizenship/Community awareness.
- Interest in world peace and understanding.
- Willingness to gain a better understanding of other cultures.
- Willingness to comply with the student exchange agreement.
- Knowledge/willingness to learn the culture/customs of the assigned exchange country.

### **C. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of this program is to promote goodwill and cultural understanding between Corpus Christi and our sister cities.
- The student's final destination city will be determined by the Sister Cities Committee\*\*.
- If a student's family elects not to send the student, the student may not be entitled to go to another location regardless of the reason for the family's decision, unless good cause is shown and agreed to by the Sister Cities Committee. The Committee may select one of the other applicants to replace the student who decided not to go.

***\*\*Partial Scholarships for airfare may be available, but a full scholarship cannot be guaranteed. Selected students will purchase airfare and submit receipt for scholarship reimbursement.***

### **III. STUDENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**A. In order to be complete, the application packet *must* include the following items:**

1. Student Application Form (with essay, required signatures from school and parents, and recent photograph);
2. Student Guidelines Agreement;
3. Student Contract;
4. Indemnification form (must be notarized);
5. Parental consent for unaccompanied minor (must be notarized);
6. Parental verification of ability to obtain medical and travel insurance while abroad (must be notarized);
7. High School Counselor's Recommendation form.

**B. Deadline for the 2024 Summer Exchange Program application: Friday, December 15, 2023.**



## SISTER CITIES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Attach a  
recent  
photograph  
of yourself

### 1. STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

#### A. Contact Information:

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number AND email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of "primary" parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number AND email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of "secondary" parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number AND email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's High School: \_\_\_\_\_

School's designated official: \_\_\_\_\_ Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Please let us know about yourself. Include information from the categories listed below. You may also attach a resume addressing each of these categories.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES (Be specific, offices held, etc):

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

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VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCE:

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HOBBIES & TALENTS:

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FOREIGN LANGUAGES (NUMBER OF YEARS STUDIED AND FLUENCY LEVEL):

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IF YOU HAVE LIVED OR TRAVELED ABROAD, LIST PLACES:

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LIST & DESCRIBE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:

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PLEASE INDICATE HOW YOU LEARNED OF THE SUMMER STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM:

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PLEASE SHARE ANYTHING ELSE YOU FEEL IS PERTINENT TO YOUR APPLICATION:

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**C. Host Family Requirements:**

Do you and your family agree to host a visiting student during the Summer Exchange Program?

Yes      No

Does your family (and anyone 18 years and older living in your home) agree to a background check?

Yes      No    If yes,

Please list household members 18 years and older

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**D. Agreement:**

- By placing my initials below where indicated on the lines, I verify that I have read the Corpus Christi High School Student Summer Student Exchange Program “Schedule and Application” packet and agree to the following (both parent and student must initial):

\_\_\_\_\_ Be available for interviews;

\_\_\_\_\_ Attend required training sessions;

\_\_\_\_\_ Be available to present, discuss, and share my learning experiences upon my return from the exchange;

- By placing my initials below where indicated on the lines, I understand and agree that, if chosen, I shall abide by all of the rules of responsible conduct expected of me while living with the host family and shall observe the laws of the United States and the host country (both parent and student must initial):

\_\_\_\_\_ The Corpus Christi Sister Cities Committee reserves the right to disqualify any student at any time from the application process if he/she is found to be ineligible.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Corpus Christi Sister Cities Committee reserves the right to alter or remove a student, once selected, due to unfulfilled requirements or disciplinary problems.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Corpus Christi Sister Cities Committee reserves the right to change the hosting cities due to home hosting obligations and/or problems.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2. STUDENT GUIDELINES AGREEMENT

1. **HOST RESPONSIBILITIES:** The host student is required to attend all official activities as sponsored and scheduled by the Corpus Christi Sister Cities Committee. (CCSCC). No other guests (such as boyfriend/girlfriend or best friend) are to be invited or brought along. Host families are welcome to attend some of the events, but will have to pay for their own costs (for example, tickets to a Hooks game).
2. **HOST-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:** The CCSCC will provide a few activities for all of the students. These will be supervised and chaperoned by committee members. The host families are encouraged to share their own family activities with their foreign exchange student. However, no foreign exchange student is to be taken out of the U.S. (e.g., no Mexico trips.) We also ask that each family host one activity which will include ALL of the exchange students together.
3. **APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:** Sister City exchange students are reminded that inappropriate public displays of affection can be considered offensive in other cultures and CCSCC students are encouraged to refrain from such behavior beyond the customary and acceptable greetings.
4. **CURFEW:** Curfew hours vary from country to country and family to family. In keeping with the mission statement and in order for students to perform their duties as ambassadors, CCSCC students should observe a reasonable curfew unless a special occasion or official function requires otherwise.
5. **USE OF ALCOHOL:** Moderate consumption of alcohol may be the custom in your host home (non-American home) so CCSCC students are encouraged to discuss your position on this with your American family before leaving the U.S. Other situations where alcohol is consumed are unacceptable and in conflict with the mission statement. No alcohol will be served or consumed at any of the committee's official functions. Any alcohol served or consumed in the American host family's home must be fully compliant with Texas and U.S. law.
6. **SMOKING:** Smoking is common and quite acceptable in other cultures and, again, this is a matter which the American students are encouraged to discuss with their family before departing the U.S. No smoking will be allowed at any of the committee's official functions and American host families must comply with Texas and U.S. laws regarding the furnishing of tobacco to minors.

Any student not in agreement with the Corpus Christi Sister Cities Committee's goals and mission should, at this point, reconsider representing Corpus Christi through this exchange program. Any host family unwilling or unable to comply with these terms should reconsider acting as a host family.

**I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT the above:**

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. STUDENT CONTRACT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am participating in the High School Student Summer Exchange Program courtesy of the Corpus Christi Sister Cities Committee. I understand that my behavior is a reflection on me, my family, my city, and my country, and I agree to conduct myself in a manner that will honor them all. I will show respect for the country that I visit, as well as its customs, food, culture, and family values.

I also agree to prepare and deliver a 5- 10 minute presentation representing my stay in the Sister City to which I was assigned. I will give my presentation in front of the Sister Cities Committee upon their request or unless otherwise directed.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Notice:** Attachments 4, 5, and 6 are to be submitted **only if** student is selected

## 7. HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S RECOMMENDATION

(To be completed by the High School Counselor or Designated School Official)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School's Counselor (or Designated School Official): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

1. Based on the above student's behavior, reputation, family situation, etc. do you recommend him or her for the Corpus Christi Sister Cities High School Student Summer Exchange Program?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

2. Comments (please explain why you do or do not recommend this student). Attach a separate page if necessary:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contract email address: \_\_\_\_\_