



U.S.-German Language Toolkit for Members

Overview of the SCI-Wunderbar Together Partnership

[Wunderbar Together](#) is a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut, and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI). Working with over 200 partners, it is showcasing the close bonds between the U.S. and Germany in over 2,000 events in all 50 states. For more information, please visit the Wunderbar Together website [here](#).

Through December 2019, Sister Cities International is partnering with [Wunderbar Together](#) to showcase the shared heritage, values, and interests between the United States and Germany and how these have been strengthened by Sister Cities partnerships over the last 60 years. Germany has the fourth most U.S. sister cities in the world (100), including many of the oldest partnerships in the network, spanning 31 states. Through an integrated [#SCIWunderbarTogether](#) communications campaign, community engagement, and guiding U.S.-German sister city members, we are highlighting and strengthening the person-to-person connections between the United States and Germany. We are especially interested in strengthening U.S.-German collaboration in climate resilience, showcasing the lasting impacts of person-to-person connections through exchange, and featuring the diverse range of sister cities programming across the entire U.S.

Background Information on U.S.-German Sister Cities

- With 100 U.S.-German partnerships across 31 states, Germany has the fourth most U.S. sister cities in the world.
- Many of the oldest Sister Cities partnerships are between the U.S. and Germany. The oldest U.S.-German sister city partnership was established in 1947 between Crailsheim and Worthington, MN, [having originated in a pen pal friendship between two young girls](#).
- The [earliest known city partnership](#) was established in 836 between Paderborn, Germany and Le Mans, France.

General Messaging on U.S.-German Partnerships

- The shared heritage, values, and interests between the U.S. and Germany and have been strengthened by Sister Cities partnerships for over 60 years.
- U.S.-German partnerships foster citizen diplomacy and advance the Sister Cities mission to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.
- Collaboration and information sharing between U.S. and German cities can lead to advancement in tackling global challenges, including those with a divergence in national policies. In particular, a unique opportunity exists for U.S.-German collaboration in climate resilience on the city and citizen level.
- U.S.-German partnerships break down stereotypes and build cultural awareness. Modern, multifaceted images of each country are conveyed, beyond just the major cities and landmarks.
- With over 44 million Americans with German heritage, more aspects of our everyday lives are influenced by Germany than we realize.
- Person-to-person connections are a vital component of U.S.-German diplomacy and the impact of these connections can last a lifetime and even across generations.
- Collaboration between U.S. and German cities will improve both cities' quality of life and community resilience.

Youth Messaging

- Participating in U.S.-German sister city partnerships now will open up a wide array of study abroad and career possibilities in the future.
- According to the Goethe Institut, learning and improving one's German leads to a [wide array of future benefits](#).
- Participation in exchanges organized by U.S.-German members can lead to a transformed perspective on German culture, lifelong friendships, and future opportunities in Germany.
- Involvement opportunities in U.S.-German partnerships can range from volunteering along with your high school German Club to participating in academic and professional exchanges.