Fact Sheet for FSO's

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Sister Cities International

Where We Are

Our Mission

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, & cooperation - one individual, one community at a time.

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit, citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities to increase global cooperation at the local level. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Sister Cities International promotes sustainable development, youth involvement, cultural understanding, and humanitarian assistance.

How We Can Help

Sister Cities International is a Traditional Public Private Partner of the U.S. Department of State. We work with Foreign Service officers at U.S. Embassies and Consulates around the world, responding to requests from foreign cites for U.S. partners, and pursuing foreign partners for our U.S. members. We work to provide hands-on assistance to our U.S. and Global Members in establishing new sister city, county or state partnerships.

City Connection Marketplace

Sister Cities International's **City Connection Marketplace** program offers support to Member cities searching for new sister city partners. The Membership Department works closely with members and partners including U.S. embassies, federal agencies, municipal associations, and the private sector to find potential matches.

To begin the process, please complete the Membership Application, and Debrief Form, found on our website. Then, email it to membership@sistercities.org or dean@sistercities.org.

FAQ's

- **Q. What is a "sister" relationship?**

  A sister city, county, or state relationship is a long-term cooperative relationship between two communities in different countries under which cultural, educational, business, and technical exchanges take place.

- **Q. How do two cities become sister cities?**

  A relationship is formally created when the mayors or the highest elected officials from two communities sign a memorandum of understanding establishing the sister city partnership. Sister city relationships may develop from several sources, including but not limited to: preexisting mayoral relationships, trade relationships, historical connections, ancestral/demographic connections, expatriate communities, shared geographic/ sector challenges, faith-based groups, and personal experience ranging from study/work abroad to marriages.

Member Cities Seeking Partners

Requests for U.S. Sister Cities

Establishing a new sister city can be a lengthy process, and often times takes more than a year form start to finish. Sister Cities International's City Connection Marketplace program offers support services to help U.S. members find new sister city partners abroad.

Foreign Service Officers who are contacted for assistance in establishing a sister city relationship within the U.S. should contact Sister Cities International's Membership Department. The national office will provide guidance.

Re-Activating Dormant Partnerships

FSO's who are contacted by cities about re-activating partnerships or establishing new activities should contact SCI. SCI will reach out to the appropriate contact within a city's sister city organization or municipal government to inquire about restarting activities to determine who would be the appropriate contact/organization fora particular activity. Once contacted, SCI can continue to liaise with the U.S. member to provide assistance in developing programming with their partner.

Jasper, Alabama
Madison, Alabama
Gila Bend, Arizona
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Placer County, California
Maywood, California
McFarland, California
Needles, California
Truckee, California
Weed, California
Castle Rock, Colorado
Commerce City, Colorado
Grand Junction, Colorado
Apalachicola, Florida
Fort Pierce, Florida
Gulfport, Florida
Pembroke Park, Florida
Pinellas County, Florida
Surfside, Florida
West Park, Florida Peachtree
Corners, Georgia
Twin Falls, Idaho
Havanna, Illinois
Hazel Crest, Illinois
Naperville, Illinois
Schaumburg, Illionois
Decorah, Iowa
Marshalltown, Iowa
Bonner Springs, Kansas
Wilson, Kansas
Grayson, Kentucky
Lawrenceburg, Kentucky
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

West Springfield, Massachusetts
Boyne City, Michigan
Clinton, Mississippi
Cameron, Missouri
Nebraska City, Nebraska
Papillion, Nebraska
Manasquan, New Jersey
Little Falls, New Jersey
Trumansburg, New Jersey
Carthage, North Carolina
Kernersville, North Carolina
Oriental, North Carolina
Tryon, North Carolina
Athens, Ohio
Fairborn, Ohio
Green, Ohio
Miami, Ohio
Oxford, Ohio
Trotwood, Ohio
Albany, Oregon
John Day, Oregon
Bamberg County, South Carolina
Fountain Inn, South Carolina
Pickens County, South Caronlina
Spartanburg, South Carolina
Briarcliff, Texas
Odessa, Texas
Palmview, Texas
Port Arthur, Texas
Saginaw, Texas
Weatherford, Texas
Standardsville, Virginia
Gig Harbor/Pierce, Washington
Longview,Washington
Lynwood, Washington

**The above list is subject to change please contact dean@sistercities.org for the most recent listing. **

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