

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

### Joining the sister cities network

Membership in the SCI network benefits your local sister city program in several ways. SCI is the clearinghouse for local programs nationwide, providing services to its members, compiling statistics, promoting the SCI mission, publicizing the efforts of sister city programs, projects and volunteers, recognizing young artists and international scholars and offering various grant programs to its members each year.

Dues-paying members receive:

- Access to the SCI affiliations database and SCI guidance and support during the affiliation process
- Technical assistance on building, funding and managing a local sister city program
- International training, cross-cultural expertise, protocol advice and development materials
- Participation in virtual global roundtables linking cities around the world, including networking with Ambassadors and other diplomats
- Participation in virtual Global Conversations regarding issues pertinent to citizen diplomats
- Access to municipal professionals and political leaders throughout the world
- Up-to-date information on leading NGOs, foundations and government initiatives that support sister city activities
- SCI publications, including SCI News, Report to the Membership, the SCI directory, and the annual convention and awards programs
- Guides and brochures for program development, practical training, teacher and youth exchange, fundraising and proposal writing
- Reduced registration and exhibit fees for regional, national and international conferences
- Voice and vote for SCI leadership and association policies
- Eligibility for innovative grant programs, from youth exchange to municipal training
- Eligibility for the annual awards program
- Discounted group and incentive travel programs
- Eligibility for the Young Artist and Authors competition
- Opportunity to identify and send young adults to the SCI Youth Leadership Conference
- Access to J-1 Visas for practical training and various insurance policies
- Invaluable networking opportunities through state, regional, bilateral and international SCI conferences and meetings
- Hands-on assistance from your SCI State Representative
- Networking with other world leaders in the Sister Cities International network

Sister city programs tap SCI's resources to find contacts, to network globally and to glean ideas about how to develop projects that benefit U.S. communities and their affiliations.

Although one person may serve as the driving force to start a program, all successful sister city programs have many people involved in the planning process. These citizens guide the sister city

program while it is being structured and organized. It is not necessary to have a sister city to establish a sister city program and become a member of SCI.

## SCI Membership Programs and Benefits

For more member benefits, please visit our website at [www.sistercities.org/membership](http://www.sistercities.org/membership)

### Global Networking

- Peer-to-peer networking with sister cities programs
- Connect with foreign communities
- Support from foreign and domestic Diplomatic Corps

### Telling Your Story

- Marketing & communications assistance
- Recognition through Annual Awards
- Crisis communications

### Resources That Matter

- Governance & policy services
- Discounted affinity benefits
- Toolkits & templates

### City Connection Marketplace

Sister Cities International has helped dozens of communities develop partnerships in countries around the world. Let us help you find your next sister city.

*"Concord might never have paired with Freeport, Bahamas has it not been for the assistance of this program."*

### High School Homestay

As a J-1 Visa sponsor, Sister Cities International can help you provide the experience of a lifetime to an international youth. Host students for a semester or year-long stay in your sister city.

*"I improved my English, I made a lot of friends, I developed a good relationship with my host family, and I learned to understand American culture better. Now I feel more like a citizen of the world."*

