

**2023 Young Artists and Authors Showcase
Frequently Asked Questions**

FOR STUDENTS

1. I am an individual located in X country/city, am I automatically part of a Sister City Organization?
 - a. No. If you have not contacted your local sister city organization before, you are not automatically part of their network. If you have attended any events through their local programming, you might be in their network. However, all sister city organizations have their own membership procedures. There might be fees and other conditions for being part of their network. Therefore, please contact your local organization to learn more about your current status.
2. Is there a sister city organization near me? / How can I find my sister city program information?
 - a. Google Search: In the search bar, type “(your city)+sister cities”. Usually, if there is a sister city organization near you it will be listed under the search results. Ex: “Washington DC Sister Cities”
 - b. Ask an SCI Staff member: You can email us at youth@sistercities.org to learn more about the sister city programs near you.
3. I didn't know I had to be a part of a sister city program to submit my artwork. Can I still submit without their approval?
 - a. No. Unfortunately, all submissions must be coordinated with your local Sister City Program.
4. Is my teacher also my Sister City contact?
 - a. Usually, your Sister City contact is different from your teacher. Almost all organizations designate one person to be the point of contact for the Showcase. However, if your teacher is directly involved with your local Sister City program, they can be your Sister City contact. Please clarify this with your local program before submitting your application form.
5. Can I provide my school email address when I am filling out the submission form?
 - a. No. Please do not provide a school-affiliated email address (.edu, k12.net, etc). Most school email addresses have a security function that prohibits us from contacting you. Our main contact method will be email. Therefore it is essential that you provide an email address you check regularly. Lastly, please do not forget to check your spam folder as our emails will be considered “external” and might not show in your inbox.
6. Is there an application fee to attend the Showcase?
 - a. No. There is no application fee to submit your artwork for the Showcase.
7. Do I need to send my artwork to the Sister Cities International Washington DC office?
 - a. No. All applications will be taken virtually.
8. Can I edit my photo before submitting it? What are the limits of photo editing?
 - a. Limited digital manipulation is allowed for Photographers Showcase. The edits include filters, lighting changes, color corrections, and cropping. However, adding or removing key elements of the photo is not allowed. Please note that heavy

edits change the category of the submission. If that is the case, please consider submitting your artwork under the digital art category. For case by case questions, please contact us at youth@sistercities.org.

9. Do the recordings need to be live recordings or is audio from music writing software acceptable? If it must be live, does it have to be the entrant playing it?
 - a. The recordings don't have to be live. Music writing software is acceptable. However, any performances should be done individually by the entrant.
10. What is the difference between food security and food **in**security?
 - a. Food insecurity is defined as the lack of access to enough good, healthy, and culturally appropriate food, while food security means reliable access.

For all other questions, please contact youth@sistercities.org.

FOR TEACHERS

11. I am a teacher at X school and the YAAS 2023 information was sent to me by email. How do I reach out to our Sister City Organization? Can I send the submissions without communicating with a Sister City Program?
 - a. No. All submissions need to be coordinated with your local Sister City Program. YAAS email promotions can be sent from various resources such as the sister city program itself, government offices, etc. Please follow up with the sender and learn about their YAAS submission process. If you are involved in your local Sister City Program and if they designate you as the YAAS contact person, you can coordinate the submissions.
12. When will the winners be announced?
 - a. Winners will be announced during our Youth Leadership Summit. The Summit's dates will be announced on our website soon.

For all other questions, please contact youth@sistercities.org.

FOR SCI MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

13. What does “5 submissions per category per Sister City” mean?
- a. For YAAS 2023, each Sister City Organization can submit 5 entries per category. This applies to their international partners.
 - b. Ex:
 - i. Boulder Sister Cities can submit up to 5 submissions in art (classic medium), 5 submissions in art (digital medium), 5 submissions in photography, 5 submissions in poetry, 5 submissions in the essay, 5 submissions in the music category.
 - ii. Also, Boulder- Dushanbe Sister Cities can submit up to 5 submissions in art (classic medium), 5 submissions in art (digital medium), 5 submissions in photography, 5 submissions in poetry, 5 submissions in the essay, 5 submissions in the music category.
 - iii. This applies to all international partners and the name of the international sister city should be indicated in the application form.
 - iv. In sum, Boulder Sister Cities can submit 30 entries for their U.S.-based organization and their international partner in Dushanbe can also submit 30 entries.
 - v. Students can only submit in one category, so there is a possibility for 30 different students to make submissions for one sister city program.
 - vi. Please note that if you are an international city and an SCI member through your U.S. partner, you need to double check your U.S. partner’s membership status (whether they are up to date with their dues or not). However, if you are an international city and an independent member of SCI (if you are paying dues separately) you can submit regardless of the status of your U.S. partner city.
14. We are a member of the SCI network but we are not sure of our current status. How do we know if we are up to date with our dues?
- a. To submit entries for YAAS 2023, you must be a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International. To check your status, you can contact us at youth@sistercities.org.
15. Do we have to hold a local competition to attend the showcase?
- a. No. There are two ways to take part in the 2023 YAAS program. You can hold a local competition and send the winners to compete on the international level. You can also approve individual entries and have students send their artwork using the application form available on our website. Whether you choose to submit individually or through your local competition, all submissions must be approved by your organization.
16. International members of Sister Cities International:
- a. If you are paying dues to Sister Cities International independently from your U.S. Sister City, you do not need to get approval for your submissions to the Young Artists and Authors Showcase. You can directly submit your entries using the application form on our website. However, we encourage our international

members to let their U.S. counterparts know about their participation status to the Showcase to avoid any communication issues and increase cooperation between communities.

- b. If you are a member by association (not paying dues directly to the Sister Cities International but associated with a U.S. member city) you can also submit your entries using the application form on our website. However, you will be responsible for confirming with your U.S. sister city that they are up to date with their dues. If their membership status is not active, you may apply to be an independent sister city organization by paying dues to Sister Cities International and attend the Showcase or you can ask your U.S. sister city organization to reactivate their membership by paying their dues.
- c. Please remember that once you become an independent member of Sister Cities International or confirm your eligibility to attend through your U.S. sister city's membership status, you can submit 5 entries in each category.

For all other questions, please contact youth@sistercities.org.