



High School Homestay Exchange Program

Help create cultural exchange in your community by hosting a high school student from your sister city!

How does it work?

Local sister cities select high school students from their partner cities to take part in a year-long or semester-long exchange program. Students live with a host family, attend a local high school, and take part in the day-to-day life of their host community. All programs have both an international and local coordinator who help oversee the program. The High School Homestay program provides life changing experiences for both the visiting students and their host communities.

As a U.S. State Department-designated sponsoring organization, Sister Cities International can process the J-1 secondary school student visa.

Who's eligible?

- Students must be between ages 15 and 18½ to qualify.
- Host cities must be Sister Cities International dues-paying members.

What are the costs?

- \$3,500/academic year (includes insurance).
- \$2,900/semester (includes insurance).
- SEVIS fee: \$180 (visa fee paid online upon registration in the SEVIS system, a government database that contains information about international students and exchange visitors in the U.S.).
- Airfare: cost varies (purchased by student).
- Other costs not covered by the program (spending money, books, school registration fees, etc.).

Important dates

- **April 1:** Selection of Local Coordinator (by U.S. sister city member).
- **April 1:** Selection of International Coordinator (by international sister city).
- **May 1:** Submit full application form for fall semester or academic year (by International Coordinator and student).
- **June 1:** Submit payment to Sister Cities International.
- **October 1:** Submit full application form for spring semester (by International Coordinator and student).

Who should apply to become a local coordinator?

Anyone can become a local coordinator in their community! If you have a desire to promote global understanding and intercultural learning, enjoy assisting individuals from around the world, and are eager to develop relationships with schools, host families, and others in your local community, we encourage you to apply. To apply, please see the application form in the Local Coordinator section of the HSHS webpage at <http://sistercities.org/hshs>.

“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.”

“I came to Omaha as an exchange student when I was in high school. I spent a wonderful time with my host family, school friends, and people in Omaha for 10 months. It was my first time to go abroad, so I learned a lot about other cultures. I fell in love with Omaha.”

Interested?

For more information, please visit <http://sistercities.org/hshs> or email afox@sistercities.org



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