



Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc.

Young Ambassador's

2016 Application

YOUNG AMBASSADOR (YA) 2016 APPLICATION

Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc.

Deadline for submission: January 31, 2016

Return application to: Clearwater Sister Cities Inc. (CSCI) : P.O. Box 4042, Clearwater, FL 33758
Or clearwatersistercities@gmail.com.

Please complete the following:

PART I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____ AGE: _____ GENDER: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MIDDLE SCHOOL: _____ GRADE LEVEL: _____

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: _____

MEDICATIONS: _____

FOOD ALLERGIES/RESTRICTIONS: _____

MEDICATION/OTHER ALLERGIES: _____

PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

MOTHER'S NAME: _____

PART II: REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE JOURNEY

Directions: Parents and Student must acknowledge the below information with initials:

Parent Initials Student Initials

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|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Students must complete the essay section and obtain reference letters. |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Invitations to participate in this journey will be extended only to applicants who successfully complete an in-person interview process. |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Students participating in the trip must be a member of Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. An individual annual membership costs \$15 per year; family memberships are \$25. |
| _____ | _____ | 4. A United States/Foreign National Passport, valid until January 2017, is required; no visa is necessary. |
| _____ | _____ | 5. A notarized permission form must be completed authorizing student to travel with CSCI and to obtain medical services while traveling as a Young Ambassador. |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Written evidence of health insurance valid in Japan is required as is a written list of participating clinics and hospitals in each city on this journey's itinerary. |
| _____ | _____ | 7. This journey is not a Pinellas County School District sponsored or endorsed trip; CSCI is a non-profit organization that supports student exchanges with Clearwater's Sister City, Nagano, Japan. |
| _____ | _____ | 8. The cost for the 2016 Young Ambassadors trip is not yet finalized. In 2015, the cost was \$3000. However, with rising airfares, the cost may be a little higher than last year. The cost will cover round-trip airfare, rail passes, other transportation, two (2) meals a day while traveling, and admission costs to venues. Students will need to bring spending money to cover lunches while traveling, incidental costs, and for souvenirs or other purchases.

**Partial scholarships may be available. |
| _____ | _____ | 9. There are two (2) scheduled payments. The initial payment is used to cover the airfare, is <u>non-refundable</u> , and is due on a date in February (TBA). In past year's this payment was \$2000. The remainder will be due in April on a date (TBA). |
| _____ | _____ | 10. Students are expected to earn part of the cost of the trip for themselves. |

- _____ 11. There will be several orientation sessions and one (1) pre-departure field trip session in an urban area with one (1) weighted suitcase; attendance to all of these are mandatory for participation, for Young Ambassador and a parent.
- _____ 12. Purchase of Travel insurance by the participant is recommended and will be discussed at the orientation sessions.
- _____ 13. A non-negotiable code of conduct including such items as expected behavior and potential sanctions for any lapses in conduct will be distributed and must be returned signed prior to departure to by both student and parents/guardians. Participants not completing this step in a timely fashion will not be allowed to board the aircraft to Japan.
- _____ 14. Student must obtain a Youth Hostel card from Hostelling International at HIUSA.org prior to the first orientation session. This is free for YAs.
- _____ 15. Youth Hostel accommodations are gender segregated and dormitory style with open showers and segregated communal bathing; some facilities offer a private shower, but this option is not guaranteed.
- _____ 16. Student understands and accepts that they are responsible for carrying all of their own baggage, including up and down stairs, and that it is limited to one (1) large suitcase no more than 50 lbs, one (1) standard carry-on bag, and one personal item such as a purse or laptop PC.
- _____ 17. Student will stay with a Japanese family that has a child attending the school we will visit. Student will share a room and be a guest in their home.
- _____ 18. Student is expected to bring a gift for their homestay family; suggestions will be made during the orientation sessions.
- _____ 19. Student will be provided with a shirt and must wear it when traveling on airplane and bullet train, as well as when instructed by chaperones.
- _____ 20. While in Nagano, the student will need to wear a uniform (based on Japanese guidelines) while at school. Also, a new pair of athletic shoes never worn outside will be required for use when attending school in Nagano.
- _____ 21. Permission is given to use student's photographic image for promotion of this program.
- _____ 22. Students are expected to write a follow up essay or film a video of their experiences and be available to appear on other occasions to share these experiences in order to promote the program for CSCI.

PART III: LETTERS OF REFERENCE, ESSAY AND PHOTOS

Directions: the completed application must include the following items and all three (3) parts must be mailed together to be considered a complete application. Partial applications will not be accepted.

1. Two (2) letters of recommendation are required; one (1) letter from a current/former teacher and one (1) letter from a non-family adult who has worked with the student. These letters should be informative and provide examples of behavior, work ethic, dealings with others, trustworthiness, and obedience.
2. Student generated essay. Preferably typed, but neatly hand-written is acceptable. The student should include:
 - Reasons why they would like to journey to Japan.
 - Their previous travel experiences overseas, on an airplane, and/or with non-family members.
 - What specifically they will not/cannot eat and their experience with Asian cuisine.
 - Any health issues, allergies to food, medication, or other relevant allergies, and required medications providing details necessary for the safe completion of the journey.
Parents, please review this section for accuracy and completeness.
3. Two (2) recent photographs with one being a clear head shot.

Submit completed application by US Mail postmarked by January 31, 2016 to:

CSCI Young Ambassadors Program
P.O. Box 4042
Clearwater, FL 33758

or

If Submitting electronically, send by January 31, 2016 in PDF or TIF format to
clearwatersistercities@gmail.com