



## 2019 Arlington-Aachen High School Exchange Program Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Arlington-Aachen High School Exchange program is the longest running program of the Arlington Sister City Association. Arlington and Aachen became sister cities in 1993 and the first group of students traveled to Aachen in 1994. Over the past 25 years this exchange program led to hundreds if not thousands of enduring friendships.

The next summer trip to Germany represents a great opportunity for another group of Arlington teens to experience another culture, explore German cultural and historical sites, make new friends here and abroad. The 17-day trip includes a two-week home stay in Aachen, one of Arlington's five sister cities and three-day visit of Berlin.

During their residence in Aachen students will be hosted in a German teenager's home, where they will experience typical daily life in a way few tourists ever get to see. Each day will feature both organized group visits to nearby historical and cultural sites plus ample free time for socializing with new German friends. Students will spend at least one day attending high school with their German hosts, and may also play sports, attend a concert, try new foods, do some shopping, and learn about Aachen's rich history and vibrant present.

During the three days in Berlin, students will stay in a youth hostel in the center of town, take bicycle tours, ride the U-Bahn, and visit the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall, German parliament, and some of the city's most famous museums and galleries.

All participants will also be invited to host a German student in October 2019 during the inbound portion of this exchange.

The tentative trip dates are: July 6-24, 2019.

The estimated program cost of the trip ranges from \$1,900 to \$2,300 and covers airfare, ground transfers, three nights of lodging in Berlin, daily excursions in and around Aachen and Berlin, and the trip leader and additional chaperone (if applicable) travel expenses. The final amount will be determined when the number of participants and the cost of the flights are finalized.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### ***When can I apply to participate in the program?***

Application materials and instructions for submission will be available on November 15, 2018 at <http://arlingtonsistercities.org/cultural-and-student-exchange-programs/>.



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***What is the deadline to apply?***

Required application forms will be due on January 31, 2019.

***Can students participate in the exchange if they are only 15 years old?***

Yes. The preferred age of participants is 16 to 18. However, we are willing to accept applicants who are 15 years old if they demonstrate maturity, independence and ability to get along with the other students in the program.

***Is hosting a German student during the inbound portion of the exchange that takes place in Arlington required for participation in the outbound portion?***

No. While we encourage each family that sends a student to Aachen to host a German student as well, we understand that not everyone can accommodate a visitor in their home and sometimes the timing of the inbound portion of the exchange may not work well for everyone. In those cases, we seek other Arlington families to volunteer to host a student to make up for those who cannot.

***Can students residing outside of Arlington County participate?***

It depends. Participation in the outbound exchange is open to Arlington residents regardless of their high school location and non-residents attending high school in Arlington. Non-resident students may not be able to host a German student if their home is not easily accessible by public transit and within a reasonable distance of most scheduled activities.

***Do Arlington students need to be able to speak German to participate in the exchange?***

No. All the German host students will speak English, but the Arlington students do not have a language requirement. If students wish to learn German on their own prior to the trip, Arlington Public Libraries have subscriptions to [Mango Languages](#) and there are plenty of free internet resources like [Duolingo](#) and [Deutsche Welle](#) which provide German instruction.

***Can Arlington students stay in Europe for longer than the outbound portion of the exchange?***

Flight arrangements can be negotiated with the travel agent we use to plan the trip. Students have stayed on past the normal end of the outbound program to visit other European destinations or family in the area. Parents or guardians need to provide a written permission for the students to remain in Europe and designate an adult whose care the student can be released to at the end of the exchange program.



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***My family may not be able to afford the exchange program. What options exist for me?***

ASCA provides financial aid to students who demonstrate need or extenuating circumstances. Students will need to complete and submit the financial aid application that will be available on the exchange's website along with other applications documents on November 15, 2018.

***I am interested in applying to be a trip leader or chaperone for the exchange. What qualifications do I need to have?***

Successful trip leader and chaperone candidates are middle and high school teachers or adults who can demonstrate extensive experience leading groups of teens on overnight and/or foreign trips. Candidates should also have CPR and emergency response training, and significant experience traveling. German language skills are not required.

***Who can I contact for more information?***

Please direct all questions to [AachenArlingtonExchange@gmail.com](mailto:AachenArlingtonExchange@gmail.com)



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