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Attention German Students!

Be a part of The Friendship Connection, Inc., a three week home-and-home German exchange program for high school students in the U.S. and Germany.

Host a student from Germany for 3 weeks!

- **March 19th - April 9th, 2024** your German partner would visit you! He/She would be a similar age, share common interests, live with your family and attend your school.
- If you are only interested in hosting a German student this spring and not returning to Germany in the summer, sign up as a **“Host Only”** participant. There is no charge to be a “Host Only” family.
- If you are interested in hosting in the spring and returning the visit to your German partner this summer, sign up as a **“Full”** participant.

Travel to Germany!

- **June 19th - July 10th, 2024** You would visit your partner in Germany, live with his/her family and attend a few weeks of school! (You will not be required to do any school work...just observe.)
- The American student’s return date can be extended upon a parent’s request, if participants have friends or relatives in Germany; however, The Friendship Connection, Inc. can no longer arrange these flight deviations with the airlines. (Please refer to our website for more details about arranging an extended stay: www.friendshipconnection.org under “Flight Deviations.”)

Cost of the program:

- **\$2,000** for all **“Full”** participants! This price includes airfare, illness/injury insurance, teacher supervision and all administrative costs. Room and board is provided by the German host family in exchange for similar accommodations when the German participant visits you in the spring. Students should plan to bring along spending money for incidentals, souvenirs, gifts, etc.

Eligibility:

- Students between the ages of 15 and 18 who will have completed a minimum of 2 years of German by the end of this school year can sign up as **“Full”** participants. Graduating seniors are also eligible!
- German One students are encouraged to participate as **“Host Only”** students. They could then choose to return the visit to their German partners in the summer of 2025, after completing German Two.
- Students who are not learning German and simply want to host a student from Germany in the spring and not return the visit in the summer are welcome to do so.

How the program works:

- Fill out either a “Host Only” or “Full” application form, which you can receive from your German teacher or print one off our website at: www.friendshipconnection.org under the link “Forms.”
- **Send in your application form as soon as possible! (Deadline December 31st)**
Mail to: Krista Winzer-Lee, Coordinator, The Friendship Connection, P.O. Box 1444, Hudson, OH 44236
Or scan and email to: FC.allforms@gmail.com
- If you are signing up as a “Full” participant, please send in your **first deposit of \$700** along with your application form before **December 31st**. The balance of **\$1,300** will be due by **February 25th, 2024**.
Important: Participant’s full name and high school must appear in the lower left corner of the check! (We have a PayPal option for an additional charge, email Krista.FC@gmail.com for more info.)
- “Full” participants and parents ***must read and sign the addendum*** to our application form, which are pages 3-4 of the “Full” application form.
- We will pair you off with a student from Germany based on you age, gender, interests and hobbies.
- **Around mid to late-February you will receive your German partner’s application form** with his/her picture, contact information, interests and hobbies. In turn, your German partner will receive your application form. At that time you can begin communicating before your partner’s arrival in spring.
- **When your German partner visits you in the spring**, he/she will attend your classes and after several days should be given a chance to substitute at least a few classes for ones of greater interest to him/her.
- Although it is expected that the host families will make an effort to show their guest the local points of interest and do some limited sightseeing, **the primary purpose of this program is to provide the participants with an opportunity to live with a family in the host country; consequently, the daily routine of the family need not be disrupted.**
- Our main goal is to find the most compatible German exchange student for *each* American; however, if two American participants request to be placed in the same school in Germany, we will try to honor that request, even though it limits our search for the best possible German partner for those Americans.
- In Germany, American students will attend a few weeks of school but will take no tests, receive no grades, nor be required to do homework. Some participants will experience only one week of school, others the full three weeks depending on their placement and host school’s summer vacation dates.
- **Krista Winzer-Lee, Coordinator of the exchange program, along with other chaperoning teachers will be in Germany overseeing the program** and will be accessible to students and parents alike. In addition, each German school has an assigned English teacher, who serves as a “Big Brother/Sister” to the Americans during their stay.

Safeguards: If the hosting parents feel that the presence of the German student in their home proves to be disruptive or undesirable, that student will be removed and “relocated” with a “back-up” host family within 48 hours. If the exchange student breaks the law (stealing, alcohol, drugs, etc.), that student will be sent home at his/her parents’ expense! After the Germans return home, the American participants and their parents have an opportunity to request a new partner, if there was a personality conflict or some other problem.

Rewards: The overwhelming majority of participants consider The Friendship Connection to be a most unique and rewarding experience! The feedback from host parents and participating teachers has also been very supportive of the program. We have found that college admissions officers are impressed with applicants who have participated in such a unique total-immersion program.

Cancellation Fee:

1. Between signing up and January 18th = \$250
2. January 19th – February 26th = \$350
3. February 27th – March 20th = \$450
4. **After March 20th – No refund!** However, you will receive your ticket for other use up to one year from the ticketing date, minus penalties from the airlines