The Friendship Connection, Inc. **"Full" Application Form**
Please type/print your name clearly as it appears on your PASSPORT!

"Full" Application Form

2026-2027

You MUST attach a PHOTO Here!

_____ _____ _____
Last Name (*Familienname*) **First Name** **Middle Name**

Grade (*Klasse*)_____

Gender *(Geschlecht)*_____ Birth date____/____/_____
month / day / year

Mailing address:_____apt. #_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Name of the School_____
(*Name der Schule*) **NO abbreviations please!**

Parent cell (____) _____-_____ Parent cell (____) _____-_____

Home Phone (____) _____-_____ Student cell (____) _____-_____

Participant Email (**print neatly**!! NO school issued emails)_____

Parent Email (**print neatly**!!) ***Important*** for FC email updates! _____

HOST TYPE: Check ONE that applies
____ First time applying for The Friendship Connection ____ Former FC participant (requesting a new partner)
____ Former FC partners (pair together again, add partner's name below) ____ Former FC participant (TRAVEL ONLY)
German partner's name whom you would like to host/visit: _____

*** To be filled out by parent or guardian!** (*Von Eltern oder Erziehungsberechtigten auszufüllen*)
Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) (Namen den Eltern) _____
Occupation(*Beruf*) _____ Employer(*Name des Arbeitgebers*) _____
Business telephone (_____) _____-_____ ext._____

Occupation(*Beruf*) _____ Employer(*Name des Arbeitgebers*) _____

Business telephone (_____) _____-_____ ext._____

*** Health facts about the applicant**: It is *extremely* important that Friendship Connection and the host family are aware of **ALL** allergies, medications, physical handicaps, etc. (*Wichtige Angaben zum Gesundheitsstand des Teilnehmers, über die die Gastgeber unterrichtet werden sollten: Allergien, Medikamente, Körperbehinderungen, u.s.w.*)_____
_____

The Friendship Connection, Inc. was founded for the purpose of encouraging and facilitating home-and-home exchanges between American high school students learning German and high school students in Germany learning English. Participants and their parents must understand that it would be impossible for the coordinators of The Friendship Connection, Inc. to personally screen and interview all participants. **We must rely on the local participating teachers to select desirable applicants and host families.** The Friendship Connection, Inc. matches the students, based on the information provided on this application form; **the more thoroughly students fill out the back side of this form, the more compatible pairings we can make.**

If my child were to have problems adjusting to his/her partner or host family, I understand that The Friendship Connection, Inc. would place him/her in a more compatible family. If, however, my child breaks the law (stealing, drugs, etc.) or becomes a discipline problem in the school or host's home, and the coordinators determine that he/she should be sent home immediately, I understand that I would have to pay any additional costs incurred in rescheduling the return flight.

I, (Parent or Guardian), agree to host a student from Germany for three weeks, **March 23rd - April 14th, 2027**, with the understanding that my child will be similarly hosted by the family of his/her partner in Germany from **June 15th - July 7th, 2027.** I give permission to **Krista Winzer-Lee, Coordinator** of The Friendship Connection, Inc. and my child's hosting parents to act ***"in loco parentis"*** if my child needs immediate medical attention and I cannot be reached by phone. **A parent/guardian *MUST* also read AND sign the ADDENDUM on page 3-4, which is an integral part of this application.**

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian signature (*Unterschrift eines Elternteiles oderVormundes*) Date (*Datum*)

Student Biography: This application form will be sent to your German partner so please write neatly.

_____ _____ _____

Last Name (*Familienname*) **First Name (*Vorname*)** **School (*Schule*) NO abbreviations!**

First names and ages of siblings (*Namen und Alter der Geschwister*)

_____

_____

1. Have you ever lived or traveled outside your country? Yes___ No___
   If yes, please describe! (*Haben Sie das Ausland besucht? Wenn "ja", wo?*)

2. Describe your community and surrounding area, including sightseeing possibilities, museums, etc. which might interest a visitor. (*Beschreiben Sie Ihr Wohnort, Ihre Umgebung, Ausflugsmöglichkeiten, Museen, usw*)

3. What subjects do you like in school? What profession or occupation are you considering? For what reasons? (*Welche Fächer gefallen Ihnen in der Schule? Welchen Beruf möchten Sie ergreifen und warum?*)

4. List your favorite interests, hobbies, and free time activities. **Please answer this section with as much detail as possible!!!** (*Nennen Sie Ihre Lieblingsbeschäftigungen, Hobbys, und bevorzugte Freizeitstätigkeiten*.)

5. Do you have any dietary restrictions? (Vegetarian, lactose intolerant, etc.) If so, explain!
   (Haben Sie diätetische Beschränkungen? Vegetarier, Laktoseintoleranz, uzw)

6. **Do you have a pet in your home**? (*Haben Sie ein Haustier in Ihrer Wohnung?*) **Yes_____ No_____**
   If yes, what kind of pet(s) and how many?_____

Total cost of program: **$2,350** for "Full" participants. Price includes airfare, insurance, teacher supervision and all administrative costs. **Please send in this form along with the signed addendum between now and Dec. 20th with the first deposit of $800** made out to: **The Friendship Connection, Inc**., **Krista Winzer-Lee, Coordinator**

P.O. Box 1444, Hudson, Ohio 44236

Or scan and email this form to: FC.allforms@gmail.com

Venmo and PayPal options are available at an additional cost! Info will be sent in acknowledgment email after the form has been processed.

Cell: 330-618-6127 * Office: 234-380-5288 * Email: Krista.FC@gmail.com

Updated: October 9, 2026

Please PRINT, SIGN and return this addendum along with the FULL application form!

Participant's Name:_____ **School:**_____

Addendum for 2026-2027: This addendum is an integral part of our "Full" participant's application form.

Cost of the program: **$2,350** for all students. If, however, the cost of the airfare were to increase, due to higher airport taxes, fuel surcharges, etc., we would have to pass any such additional expenses on to the participants. As of now, there is no extra fee for checking one bag under 50 lbs. on international flights. If the airlines were to impose a luggage fee, or a participant's luggage was over the weight limit or exceeded the number of checked bags allowed on an international flight, those fees would have to be paid by the participant at the time of check-in.

Schedule of payments: The first deposit of **$800** for The Friendship Connection 3 week visitation program is due with the "Full Participant" application form, or shortly after scanning and emailing application form to FC.allforms@gmail.com. We are accepting forms and first deposits between **October and December 20th, 2026.**
Venmo and PayPal payment options are available for an additional fee. Please email Krista.FC@gmail.com for more information.
The second payment of **$1,550** is due by **March 1st, 2027.** If you want to split the second payment, please pay $775 by Feb. 10th and $775 by March 10th at the very latest.

If the final payment is not received by **March 16th, prior to the airlines issuing tickets to the participants, The Friendship Connection, Inc. will be forced to cancel that participant from the program and all cancellation fees would apply.** (Please see the "Cancellation Fees" section on our website for more details.)

Responsibilities of the hosting families and guests: The primary responsibility of the host family, both in America and in Germany, is to provide room and board, 3 meals a day and a congenial family atmosphere for the three weeks that the student is visiting. **Students may share a bedroom but must have separate beds and the room must have a functioning door**. Although it is expected that host families make an effort to show their guest the local points of interest and to do some limited sightseeing, the main purpose of the program is to provide the visitor with a "family stay" and an opportunity to attend classes at the host partner's school; consequently, the daily routine of the host family does not need to be altered. Although it would be expected of a guest to clean up after him/herself, the guest should not be given specific chores such as taking out the garbage, vacuuming, etc. Guests are instructed to bring spending money for incidentals. If the guest participant attends any event or activity with other teenagers, it is expected that the guest pays his/her own way. However, if the host parents take family members and their guest to an activity or function, it would be expected that the host parents pay for all meals and entrance fees for their guest. *Exceptions*: The entrance fees for bigger attractions such as Disney World, amusement parks, etc. should be paid for by the *visitor*; however, the hosting family should tell The Friendship Connection well in advance how much extra money the German partner would be expected to pay so we can relay this to the German family and receive their permission: for example, traveling with the band to Florida or flying with the host family somewhere for spring break, etc. **These extra charges should not exceed $500.**

Flight Arrangements for Americans who visit Germany in the summer: We request seats in 30 U.S. airports in the spring when the Germans come to visit to make the program more "user friendly" for the large number of U.S. host families. **However, since less than half of the U.S. hosting participants make the return visit in the summer we must reduce the number of airports we use in order to provide the best adult/German teacher supervision for the transatlantic flights. Therefore, some participants might have to drive to the *next* largest airport rather than use a closer one which might have been used by their German partner in the spring.** The local German teacher can help families arrange "car pools" in the summer in order to get as many participants to the next closest airport as possible. **Note:** Since most airlines are reducing the number of flights, our groups are often booked on flights with **less desirable departure and arrival times**, just like when one tries to use frequent flier miles. For those participants who have a connecting flight, for their safety and assurance that they will make their connection, we have asked the airlines to allow at least 2 hours *or more* between their connecting flight to Germany and at least 3 hours *or more* on the way home, since they must go through customs when they land in the U.S. and then catch their connecting flight home. Because we *insist* on extra time between connecting flights, some students may have much longer layovers and we ask for your understanding.

If a hotel overnight is required as a result of a missed connection or flight cancellation, the participant's parents would be responsible for the cost of the hotel accommodation if the airlines does not provide a voucher. (The airlines are obligated to cover costs due to mechanical failure but not due to weather conditions.)

Important March 17th deadline for The Friendship Connection, Inc.: The negotiated airfares we have reserved carry the following stipulation: "All final reductions must be made **by March 18th** and guaranteed utilization for all remaining booked seats must be made by this date." For this reason we must release all "extra" reserved seats by March 18th, which must also be our *absolute* deadline for anyone wishing to sign up for the summer program at the price we are offering. If we can obtain a seat on the group flight *after* the given deadline, it most likely would not be at the negotiated group rate and all extra charges would have to be passed on to the participant. If we cannot obtain a ticket from the participant's local airport after the final deadline, the parents would be responsible for purchasing their child's airfare and would only owe The Friendship Connection, Inc. the $350 fee to cover the participant's injury/illness insurance, chaperons and administrative fees.

Adult supervision for the summer flights: We will ask for parent volunteers to act as an "Airport Contact Person" at every U.S. airport, who will supervise and assist during the check-in of all students. This person will hand out name tags then accompany the group to their gate and stay with them until they board. Most larger groups have an accompanying teacher who will depart with the students and fly with them until they land in Frankfurt. However, there are many smaller groups throughout the U.S. that do not have an accompanying teacher with them the entire trip. We handle those groups in the following manner: The "Airport Contact Person" will make sure the group boards their first flight. We "funnel" all unaccompanied groups into Charlotte, where they are met by our program's representatives holding up "Friendship Connection" signs, who then accompany the smaller groups to their connecting transatlantic flight. All transatlantic flights have adult chaperons to accompany our students to Germany and another Friendship Connection, Inc. representative will be at the Frankfurt Airport to greet every arriving group and will remain at the Frankfurt Airport until the last American participant has found his/her German host family.

Switching host families: If a German or American visiting the host country is required to be moved to a new host family for any reason, we tend to relocate the visiting student to a different school district in order to avoid further complications.

Medical Issues: If a participant has a physical or psychological problem which was not disclosed on the application form under the medical section, The Friendship Connection, Inc. reserves the right to send that participant home should this issue cause problems for the German host family or in the school. **Any rebooking fees must be paid by the participant's parents.**

Flight deviations: Any participant whose parent requests a flight deviation from the group must understand that we cannot provide adult supervision for individuals not traveling with our scheduled groups. See our website for more details about flight deviations and to print out the "Flight Deviation Form."

Passports: U.S. participants are responsible for making sure they have a valid passport that does not expire before or during the June/July visit to Germany or for *90 days* AFTER the travel is completed. This is the law! Participants are responsible for applying for a passport in a timely fashion. We suggest they apply no later than January prior to their June departure. Call your local U.S. Post Office to find out if they process passport applications, contact AAA for information as to how to get started or visit the government website: **http://travel.state.gov**
No other documentation for U.S. citizens is necessary other than a U.S. passport. **If a participant does not receive his/her passport before April 1st, call Krista Winzer-Lee immediately for advice and support.**
Important: Parents would have to bear the full financial consequences if the passport does not arrive by our June departure.

Non-U.S. Citizens: Non-U.S. citizens who plan to visit Germany in the summer as participants on The Friendship Connection, Inc. need to have a Visa in addition to a valid passport from their own country. Those individuals must contact the proper authorities early on to obtain the proper documentation. The Friendship Connection, Inc. is not responsible for arranging for the proper travel documentation for any participant on our program. We can assist, but the responsibility for obtaining proper travel documentation always lies with the participant and his/her parents.

I, (Parent or Guardian), have read, understand and agree to the terms above.

_____ _____

Parent or Guardian signature **Date**