

Application for Long Beach Digital Pen Pal Program

Our Goal and Mission

In an increasingly globalized world, it is important now more than ever to stay connected to one another and build long-lasting relationships. That is why the Long Beach Digital Pen Pal Program has made it their mission to build relationships with our friends in our sister cities. We are happy to announce our fourth annual Digital Pen Pal Program between students of the greater Long Beach area of California and students of our multi-international sister cities community. Not only will this cultural exchange program be 100% digital, it also gives students the opportunity to receive scholarships!

When

The program will take place from October 2023 to January 2024. Though it is a pen pal program, it is not limited to just writing: if you are an artist, we will match you up with another artist! If you like to take pictures, make videos, write or more then you will be partnered with someone who reflects similar interests. That's the beauty of this program — we encourage accepted participants to communicate through whatever creative medium they'd like!

Scholarship Opportunities

There is a scholarship to be awarded, up to \$1,000 per student, and will be awarded to those who submit the best "end of the program" project that reflects their time during the program. The scholarships will be awarded at a celebration in January 2024 to honor all participants as well as give them the space to showcase their projects.

In order to qualify for the program, a participant should be graduating no sooner than December 2024. Space is limited and acceptance is highly competitive, so only those who exhibit a strong resonance with this program in this application will be considered.

If interested, please submit this completed application to our Program Manager;
Rene Giron @ Rene.James.Giron@gmail.com

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Tell us about yourself! Hobbies, interests, passions, etc. in addition to your year, major, and educational institution.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

Through what creative media might you consider engaging in to exchange with your partner, if accepted? (Including but not limited to: writing, photography, videos, art, etc.)

Guidelines

1. The purpose of the program is for cultural exchange of information in order to build relationships and friendships.
2. There must be no inappropriate communication and behavior in all correspondence, including but not limited to: swearing; politics; insulting behavior; overly-excessive personal behavior; sexual content; racial behavior; hostility.
3. Mandatory consistent communication between students throughout the entire length of the program. Should a participant not fulfill this requirement they will be disqualified from receiving a scholarship.
4. Qualified participants should be graduating no sooner than December 2024.

Background

Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House conference on citizen diplomacy. The organization's aim was to promote social, cultural, economic, educational, and diplomatic ties between two cities. In forming these relationships, people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

I, _____, having read and understood the guidelines below and what is expected of me should I be accepted, release my application to be considered.

Date: _____