



New Citizen Diplomat Orientation to the Sister Cities International

Welcome as a new member to the Sister Cities International network of citizen diplomats. We look forward to your active participation and we are happy to share an overview orientation on what the sister city movement does and how you can be involved.

The Sister City Program is an affirmation of one people's basic goodwill toward another people. It is a dedication of friendship and understanding between peoples of different cultures and different attitudes. It is the golden rule in international practice. It is recognition of the often obscured fact that we all are brothers in the human race. And it is fun.

Most activities are conducted on an individual city-to-city basis and the grass roots strength of the Sister Cities Movement rest on the people-to-people citizen diplomacy programs of direct contact activity within the relationships. The range of activities include cultural, student, professional, industrial, and commercial exchanges of every form, all arranged directly by those engaged in the individual programs.

This is where the real efforts and goals envisioned by the late President Eisenhower are being realized, and where the bridge of true friendship and understanding that can lead to lasting peace in the world is being built. President Eisenhower believed that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, he thought that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.

Sister cities citizen diplomats around the world promote world peace by contributing the best that they have, and all that they are, toward creating a world that supports everyone and at the same time, secures the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are.

The active participation in one or more of the sister city programs in their local communities will result in a joyful sense of shared identity with citizen diplomats working on the world peace mission throughout the world.

The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

--Black Elk (1863 – 1950)