









Canmore Trip November 5-10, 2025

# SISTER CITY NEWS

## Celebrate Sedona's International Outreach



The Sedona Sister Cities Association (SSCA) will host its annual Mayors Invitational Dinner on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Resort at Bell Rock.

This special evening will celebrate Sedona's historic partnership with Canmore, Canada—its first Sister City—and the recent signing of a friendship agreement with Jaslo, Poland. Guests will enjoy video greetings from both Sister City mayors, along with highlights of this year's international exchanges.

Entertainment will feature *Fiddler on the Rock* – One Man Symphony by Sedona's own Tyler Carson, a nationally recognized violinist whose genre-bending performances blend looping, vocals, and storytelling. The Mayors Invitational Dinner combines fine dining, global friendship, and world-class entertainment in one unforgettable evening. *Limited tickets are available at sedonasistercities.org.* 



## Free September Polish & Canadian Events

Four accomplished young musicians—two from Canmore, Alberta, and two from Phoenix, Arizona—will perform a free "Rising Stars" concert on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Sedona Performing Arts Center as part of the inaugural arts exchange between Sedona and Canmore,

Then, on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sedona will host its first authentic Polish Picnic at Posse Grounds Park. This free, family-friendly gathering—cosponsored by the Polish American Congress of Arizona—will feature traditional Polish food, music, cultural exhibits, and more,

For full details: sedonasistercities.org



#### Sedona Welcomes Jaslo, Poland

The Sedona Sister Cities Association celebrated a historic milestone on August 30, 2025, with an official friendship signing ceremony between Sedona, Arizona and Jasło, Poland. Mayors Scott Jablow of Sedona and Adam Kostraub of Jasło signed official letters of intent via Zoom, formalizing the commitment to strengthen cultural and personal ties between the two cities.

Supporters from both Sedona and Jasło attended the ceremony, joined by U.S. Consul in Poland, Colette Clark, who emphasized the importance of building bridges through personal relationships in today's world.

Adding to the celebration, the Verde Valley Wine Consortium was a featured guest at Jasło's renowned Days of Wine Festival. Local representatives Danusia Szumowski and Nancy Butterworth showcased eighteen Verde Valley wines, which were warmly received at a special tasting following the Festival.

The Sedona Sister Cities delegation included Chuck Marr, President; Donna Foreman, Secretary; Danusia Szumowski; David Fowler; and Nancy Butterworth. The successful visit was coordinated by Jasło Sister City Committee Chair Edyta Wieczorek and Matthew Wieczorek, whose hospitality ensured the partnership's success.

#### **Poland: A Journey Through History and Hope**

From Chopin to Solidarity, Auschwitz to the Black Madonna, a nation's past and future shine through.

In August 2025, our travels across Poland revealed both the depth of its history and the spirit of its people. Beginning in Warsaw, we visited the Chopin Monument, attended a moving recital, and toured the Royal Castle, reminders of the city's cultural resilience.

From there, we journeyed north to Gdańsk, with a side trip to Malbork and the massive Teutonic Order Castle. Gdańsk offered powerful moments at the Solidarity Monument and Museum, where Poland's modern democratic story began, as well as the Gothic beauty of St. Mary's Church and views of its bustling port. In Toruń, the birthplace of Copernicus, medieval streets spoke of Poland's scientific and cultural legacy. Wrocław's network of canals, vibrant university life, and colorful squares reflected a city both historic and youthful. A side trip to Częstochowa and the Jasna Góra Monastery provided a glimpse of Poland's spiritual heart through the revered Black Madonna.

Our journey concluded in Kraków, where history was etched in the Jewish Quarter, the solemn grounds of Auschwitz, and the underground wonders of the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

Throughout, one truth stood out: Poland's thousand-year story is one of perseverance. Despite repeated invasions and partitions, the nation has reemerged as a modern democracy of 35 million people. Today, the Poles hold a deep respect for their heritage while looking confidently to the future—strengthening their borders, expanding their armed forces, and embracing the United States as an ally against Russian aggression, while remaining wary of current U.S. trade policies and their impact on the European Union. **Delegation members Chuck & Donna** 







### **Canada Trip**

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Join the Sedona
Delegation visit to
Canmore and the Banff
Mountain Film Festival
contact:
cmarr609@gmail.com