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SISTER CITY NEWS

Sedona Delegation Visits Canmore and the Banff Mountain Film Festival's 50th Anniversary

A 13-member joint delegation of Sedona Sister Cities and Sedona International Film Festival representatives traveled to Canmore, Alberta, November 5–10 to celebrate the Banff Mountain Film Festival's 50th anniversary and strengthen ties with Sedona's Canadian Sister City. The group stayed in the new Spring Creek development, a vibrant hub within walking distance of downtown Canmore, offering easy access to shops, trails, and the festival atmosphere.

The visit began with a memorable day at Lake Louise, transformed by early winter snow into a postcard-perfect setting. Delegates explored the trails, took in the views of the frozen lake, and enjoyed the quiet beauty that defines the Canadian Rockies in November. Throughout the week, members also spent time shopping in both Canmore and nearby Banff, enjoying the boutiques, galleries, and mountain-themed shops that give the region its charm.

A highlight of the trip was reconnecting with Canmore Sister City leaders. The delegation met with Sister City Chair Rob Seeley and his wife Kathy, as well as Canmore Mayor Sean Krausert and his wife Janet. Together, the group reviewed ongoing exchanges between Sedona and Canmore, including grade-school classroom partnerships, the "Rising Stars" young musicians exchange, and plans for a new golf exchange in 2026. Early steps toward a mountain-biking exchange were also discussed, reflecting the shared outdoor culture of both communities.

Delegates attended the Banff Mountain Film Festival, known worldwide for its high-energy adventure films celebrating exploration, nature, and human endurance. Many of the standout films will be featured in Sedona when the Banff Film Tour returns in March 2026.

The trip strengthened friendships, inspired new collaborations, and reaffirmed the value of international citizen diplomacy at the heart of Sedona's Sister City mission.



How to Become Sedona's Sister City

Becoming a Sister City to Sedona begins with genuine interest — either from a foreign city or from local residents who envision a meaningful connection. A Sedona advocate, with a small committee, gathers information using SSCA's city-profile form and evaluates the potential relationship. With SSCA Board approval, an official expression of interest is sent, followed by identifying an advocate in the foreign city. Delegations then visit each community to assess compatibility and potential exchanges. If both sides agree, the SSCA recommends a Friendship City or full Sister City agreement to the Sedona City Council and the foreign city council. Once approved, joint committees build a lasting partnership.

Sedona Sister Cities enters its fifth year in 2026, and our international outreach continues to grow in exciting ways. Several initiatives are already taking shape, and this is the perfect time for members to help shape what comes next. SSCA has always thrived on fresh ideas, personal connections, and the willingness of our members to step forward, share their talents, and participate in building global friendships.

Plans for the coming year include a return of two highly successful events: our second Polish Picnic, celebrating food, music, and community; and our second Rising Stars Concert in our Sister City of Canmore, Canada, showcasing young musicians and deepening our cultural exchange. In addition, we are

organizing delegation visits to two major festivals abroad—Jasło, Poland's Days of Wine Festival and Canmore's vibrant Winter Festival—both offering unique opportunities for member participation and cultural immersion.

As we prepare for a milestone year, we want to hear from you. What new ideas, exchanges, or projects would you like to see? Where would you enjoy volunteering—events, hosting, youth programs, communications, cultural planning, or delegation support? Contact cmarr609@gmail.com.



*Sedona Sister
Cities members
continue to
explore the world.*

In March 2026, Margaret Joy Weaver and Edyta Wieczorek will join an Arizona Sister Cities delegation to Agra, India, attending an India -U.S.

conference and meeting with cities interested in partnering with Sedona. Meanwhile, SSCA members Dave and Judi Palmisano are traveling through Italy this November and December, visiting communities that may become future Sister Cities. Sedona's global connections continue to grow through these dedicated ambassadors.

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