

Sister Cities International

A Sister City relationship is created when an American community and a community in another country partner together to develop friendly and meaningful exchanges.

The Sister City program as a national concept was launched at the White House in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for massive exchanges between Americans and the people of other lands. When introducing the program, President Eisenhower said:

"If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and leap governments—if necessary to evade governments—to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other."

Hundreds of cities responded, and Lexington was one of the first when it twinned with Deauville, France in 1957.

Sister Cities International is a tax-exempt, non-profit association headquartered in Washington, D.C. and governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Awards received by SCI:

Best overall Program:

1989, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013

Cultural Awareness:

1991

Youth Exchange:

1994

Tourism:

1996

Collaboration Award:

1997

Chairman's Award—Kay Sargent:

2016

Lexington Sister Cities



Lexington's Sister Cities program is unique in that it has a common bond with all current Sister Cities: the love of the horse. As the "Horse Capitol of the World", Lexington encompasses many areas of the horse industry, from racing to breeding to eventing; even playing host to the 2010 World Equestrian Games at the

Kentucky Horse Park. All of Lexington's Sister Cities also have established horse industries in their city.

Lexington Sister Cities has many responsibilities, including:

- Providing programs available in the following categories:
 - Youth
 - Education
 - Arts & Culture
 - Tourism/Economic Development
 - Municipal
- Assisting the government and its agencies in reception of the many foreign visitors and dignitaries who travel to Lexington, as well as travel promotion on the international and national levels
- Inform and educate about the organization and the many active programs.
- Assist other cities in Kentucky participating in the Sister Cities program.
- Organize fundraisers to fund programs and scholarships for students and teachers

The Sister Cities program offers the opportunity to:

- Learn about and participate in international relations.
- Experience other cultures, language, art, and ideas.
- Understand the economics of world trade and tourism and increase our international business partnerships.
- Participate in cooperative community programs based on diversity.

Contact Us:

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*Promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation—
one individual,
one community at a time.*



Lexington Sister Cities Commission
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Our Sister Cities



Deauville, France

Lexington and Deauville were twinned in 1957 and will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Twinning in October of 2017. Located on the channel coast near the port of LeHarve in the Calvados department of the Basse-Normandie region of France, Deauville is only about 100 miles from the capital city of Paris. Deauville

holds a population of 8,000 through the winter; in the summer however, the population swells to over 100,000. With its beautiful beaches, horse racing, the casino, tourists flock to this quaint town to experience truly a world of elegance and leisure.

County Kildare, Ireland

County Kildare became Lexington's second Sister City in 1984. County Kildare is located about 25 kilometers from Dublin. It is home to the Irish National Stud, the top breeding facility in Ireland, and boasts many museums, parks, castles and golf courses. The 2006 Ryder Cup was held at the K Club, and the 2013 Irish Open was held at the Carton House Golf Course.



Shinhidaka, Japan

Shinhidaka and Lexington became Sister Cities in 1988. When first twinned, the town in Japan was called Shizunai. In 2006, Japan merged many of its smaller cities into larger ones; this combined Shizunai with Mitshuishi, forming Shinhidaka. Shinhidaka is located on the island of Hok-

kaido, with a population of around 30,000. Shinhidaka sits between the Hidaka Mountain Range and the Pacific Ocean, making its view and surroundings breathtaking sites. It is home to the largest sales pavilion for auctioning horses in Japan, and is home to 2012 Kentucky Derby Winner "I'll Have Another".

Newmarket, England

Newmarket became Lexington's Sister City in 2003. Newmarket is truly about the horse. The Queen of England keeps her horses there. Located in Suffolk, Newmarket is only 60 miles from London and 12 miles from Cambridge. As a small town of about 20,000 people and 3,000 racehorses, about one in three jobs in Newmarket are connected to horseracing.



Member Benefits

Your membership to Lexington Sister Cities entitles you to the following benefits:

- Opportunity to participate in overseas trips, student exchanges, and other activities
- Networking opportunities with international visitors and business contacts
- Invitations to events organized for visiting dignitaries
- Informative quarterly newsletter and special event updates
- Information on Sister Cities International annual conference
- Opportunity to volunteer on a Sister City committee or as a host family
- Sponsorship Opportunities



Lifetime Ambassador

Become a Lifetime Ambassador with a one-time payment of \$500. Lifetime Ambassadors receive special benefits in addition to the regular member benefits.



Follow Lexington Sister Cities:

www.lexingtonsistercities.org

Facebook—www.facebook.com/lexingtonsistercities

Instagram—@lexingtonsistercities

Twitter—@lexsistercities

Blog—lexingtonsistercities.blogspot.com

Membership Application

Name(s):

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Home phone:

Cell Phone(s):

Email(s):

Company (if applicable):

Membership Categories (Select One):

- Youth (18 and under) \$5
 Individual \$25
 Family (includes children under 18) \$45
 Corporate \$250
 Lifetime Ambassador (include #) \$500

Areas of volunteer interest: (Select all interested)

- Deauville Committee County Kildare Committee
 Shinhidaka Committee Newmarket Committee
 French Translator Japanese Translator
 Host Family Fundraisers

**Please note that you must speak French to be on the Deauville Committee.*

Please include payment and return to:
Lexington Sister Cities
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507