

Verl-Delphos Sister City Link in the Historical Society of Verl

Sender Str. 8 • 33415 Verl • Germany



Representatives of the Student Exchange Program



Frithjof Meissner
Fuerst-Wenzel-Platz 2
33415 Verl-Kaunitz
Germany
phone: 0(1149-)5246-7371
e-mail: meissner@amerikanetz.de

Ginger Denman
7892 German Road
Delphos, OH 45833-9167
USA
phone: (001-)419-695-1502
e-mail: gkdenman@yahoo.com

Preamble

The Representatives of the Verl-Delphos Sister City Student Exchange Program (subsequently only called "Representatives") understand that you are not a particularly unusual or extraordinary individual, but rather a well-adjusted, mature young person, who would like to know more about the American way of life. We hope you can improve your English, and if you do not understand anything, please feel free to ask us to explain. We are certain that you are going to experience a wonderful and educational time with your new family.

We are here for you at any time. Do not contact the other students or teachers or anybody else, if any problem arises. Please contact either of the Representatives first. When you arrive in the USA you will be welcomed at the airport by either your host parents or a Representative. The flight to the USA can either be individual or accompanied by an adult, which is decided by the Representatives. If the flight is accompanied the cost for the flight of the chaperone must be covered by the parents, proportionately to the number of participating students. The return flight is always individual and not accompanied.

You can and are encouraged to travel with your host family. Do not let anything slip by that you may think not interesting, but try to join the family trips as much as you can. The Representatives will be planning special day trips and you are encouraged to go. They will be educational, lots of fun and we hope interesting for you. It will give you a small understanding of America over the years. We hope as in the past years that we can take you on a weekend trip to a larger city, but the program cannot guarantee this, nor has the student any influence on which city it will be if there is one on the schedule.

Students' Responsibilities

As an exchange student, we ask that you are to be cooperative at every point of family living, to be helpful with household and family duties, and to assume the same responsibilities as the children in the family. You must definitively keep your room straight, tidy and clean.

You are responsible for your own clothing. Your host parents will inform you when they do the laundry and where you are to deposit your soiled clothing to be washed. You will have to do the ironing yourself and you can also be asked to help with the laundry for the family.

You must respect the religious belief of the host family and you are encouraged to attend mass and services with your hosts.

You must have health, liability, and accident insurance that cover the United States of America. You should bring with you your health insurance papers and a power of attorney so if necessary medical care can be given. The Verl-Delphos Sister City Student Exchange Organization does not provide any insurance.

You are responsible for your own spending money. If necessary, inform your parents if you see that you will need additional money for unforeseen expenses.

As a student, you are expected to attend school regularly, to join committees, and to do school projects. In the community and school, we ask that you carry responsibility for making new friends and we hope, if you like, to participate in church youth groups and school activities. There should be a good balance between home, school and community life.

Being part of the Verl-Delphos Sister City Program, you are obliged to regularly (every second weekend) inform its representatives in Delphos and Verl by e-mail about the development of your stay, e.g. about what you have been doing, how you are getting along with your family, what progress you are making at school and whatever is on your mind. These mails are to be sent by each student individually. At the end of the stay each student is requested to write a report of the stay and e-mail it to the representatives in Delphos and Verl. This report in German language, which can also be written in teamwork by two students, must consist of 2 pages (Arial 10) plus 6 photos. When taking part in the program you agree to this report being published in newspapers, in school magazines, on the websites of the Sister City Link and/or of the schools involved etc. In case you do not hand in the final report within two weeks after your return home, you will have to pay a fine of € 500 to the Organization. By signing this paper you and your parents declare that this rule is understood and accepted.

Prohibitions

You are not permitted to drive any vehicle that is powered by an engine, i.e. a truck, a tractor, or a car, not even an electric golf cart or similar. You must not ride on a motorcycle or a moped, or ride in a small air-plane, helicopter, or balloon. You are not permitted to do skydiving or bungee jumping.

You are not allowed to use firearms or take part in any shooting activities such as hunting. You are not permitted to do any dangerous sports such as paragliding, rock climbing, or similar.

You must not drink any alcohol (not even beer or wine); you must not smoke; and you must not take drugs or be caught with drugs on you. Furthermore you are not allowed to socialize with people or groups of people that consume or possess drugs.

NB: If you are involved in any misdemeanor having to do with drugs you risk your hosts' reputation and fortune. You and they will both be imprisoned. After serving your time in jail you will be expelled from the USA and not be allowed to return for at least ten years.

Behavior and Dress Code

You must not speak German or any other language as soon as an American person is in the same room or car or just near you. Then you are to speak English only.

Most schools have a dress code and you will be informed of these rules in detail when you arrive. The clothing that is required can be purchased when you arrive.

St. John's High School for instance has the following uniform code:

Girls are to wear white blouses, navy or plaid slacks or skirts, navy vest or sweaters, and black dress type shoes.

Boys will wear either light blue (Cranbury) or white dress type (button down collar) shirts (either short or long sleeve) with a tie (any kind, but no offensive pictures or writing on them), navy or black dress type pants and black dress type shoes.

Both girls and boys cannot wear any kind of tennis or sports shoes at school (unless in sports lessons). Their trousers cannot be stitched down the side, as jeans are. Both shoes and trousers must be dress type.

Boys must wear their hair short (crew cut style). They are not allowed to have earrings or any kind of beard or moustache.

Girls can wear long hair and two earrings per ear, but no other piercing or tooth jewelry. They are supposed to shave their legs and armpits regularly.

It is obligatory for you (no matter if boy or girl) to have a blazer jacket or coat for official occasions, such as a meeting with the Mayor for instance.

You are supposed to dress and look civilized, to wash and shower regularly and especially not to have tattoos, body piercing or artificially colored hair.

Payments

The students taking part in the Verl-Delphos Sister City Student Exchange Program are supposed to bring a reasonable amount of pocket money for their private expenses. In addition to that you must pay:

- # 1 The cost for the flight. Students must take care of and book the flights themselves if the German side of the organization does not take care of this.
- # 2 The cost for the visa and also the expenses for the I-20 forms (if provided). Students must apply for their visa themselves.
- # 3 The expenses for school meals, books and various out-of-home activities. When the family goes on a trip or sightseeing tour you are expected to pay for your own meals and drinks.
- # 4 € 450 for each month of stay to the organization on the American side which include school tuition, day trips and museums (if such trips are organized) as well as a little farewell party at the end of the stay. The money is to be paid for the whole stay in advance and must be transferred to the "Sonderkonto USA" (Kontonummer 579 40 301) at Volksbank Kaunitz (Bankleitzahl 478 618 06) as soon as this paper is signed. There is no right to claim any money back if by any reason whatsoever the student does not take part in certain trips or not stay the full period of time planned or not travel at all.
- # 5 € 25 for each month of stay to the organization on the German side. The money is to be paid for the whole stay in advance and must be transferred to the "Sonderkonto USA" at Volksbank Kaunitz (confer #4) as soon as this paper is signed. There is no right to claim any money back if by any reason whatsoever the student does not take part in certain trips or not stay the full period of time planned or not travel at all.
- # 6 € 170 for each month of stay for "room & board", i.e. for food and other additional expenses that the host family has due to the student's staying in the family home. The money is to be paid for the whole stay in advance and must be transferred to the "Sonderkonto USA" at Volksbank Kaunitz (confer #4) as soon as this paper is signed. There is no right to claim any money back if by any reason whatsoever the student does not take part in certain trips or not stay the full period of time planned or not travel at all.
- # 7 A certain amount of money for the trip to a bigger city. The amount of money depends on where the city trip goes to. If it is Chicago for instance, the cost will be about \$ 400 altogether; if it is Columbus, it will be about \$ 300 altogether. This money is to be paid cash to the Delphos Representative as soon as the destination of the city trip is fixed.

NB: The money mentioned in #4 and #5 will be used for the expenses of the Verl-Delphos Sister City Organization, as mentioned above, and for phone and fax bills, for mailing costs, for gas, other material and similar things. The money will not be used to pay the working hours of the representatives or other people working for the organization, because they all do the work on an honorary basis.

Concluding Remarks

Please never forget that you are ambassadors of your German motherland in the United States and that the American people's opinion about Germany as a country will crucially be influenced by your behavior.

If you break any of the above rules, especially the ones mentioned in "Prohibitions", you will immediately be sent home at your parents' expenses. The order to fly home can be given by any of the above mentioned Representatives.

You go to Ohio with the exchange program of the Verl-Delphos Sister City Link and in return your parents must host a foreign exchange student for at least the same amount of time that you stayed abroad with the program. If you cannot do this for personal reasons like not enough room you must provide a different possibility for a foreign student to stay in Germany.

In case a student drops out of the program before the trip starts and his/her place is taken by some other student, the payments for #4 and #5 and for the flight ticket are transferred to the new student. If, however, the booking of the ticket for the new students requires additional costs, the extra charge must be covered by the student that dropped out.

Since you benefit from the Verl-Delphos Sister City Student Exchange Organization by taking part in this program, you are expected to stay at your school in Germany (the Gymnasium Verl respectively the Evangelisches Gymnasium Werther) for at least the rest of your class 10. If you leave your school earlier, either to go to a different school or to take up a profession or for other reasons, you will have to pay a fine of € 2,000 to the Organization. By signing this paper you and your parents declare that this rule is understood and accepted.

This contract shall give you an impression of what you can expect from your stay in Ohio and what is expected from you. On the other hand it shall give the host parents clear rules of what they can expect from you as their guest. Therefore please read this paper carefully and sign it. Your parents are obliged to sign it, too, since you are not yet 21 years old. Three copies are required, one is sent to the Delphos Representative, one is put in the records of the Verl Representative and one is handed back to you and your parents.

Name of the student: _____

Home address: _____

Date of birth: _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our names this
(date)

(father and natural guardian)

(mother and natural guardian)

(student)

Subscribed to and sworn before me this
(date)

Frithjof Meissner
President of the Verl-Delphos Sister City Link
in the Historical Society of Verl