

## **SISTER CITY INTERNATIONAL Conferences and Events**

Sister City International hosts an annual conference and helps facilitate various annual youth programs, including a High School Homestay Exchange Program, an Annual Youth Leadership Summit, and a Young Artists and Authors Showcase. More details follow on those events:

SCI's Annual Conference: The 2016 conference is scheduled for July 13-16 in Washington, D.C. and will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCI. It includes a Youth Leadership Summit, Diplomatic Gala, welcome reception, and awards dinner. A typical attendee could expect to spend approximately \$2,000 in registration, airfare, and hotel expenses.

SCI's High School Homestay Exchange Program: Local sister cities select high school students between the ages of 15 to 18.5 from their partner city to take part in either a year-long or semester-long exchange program, also identifying local and international coordinators to facilitate this exchange, recruit host families, provide student oversight, and include sister city activities during their stay. The 2016-17 program costs are \$3,500 (includes insurance) for an academic year and \$2,900 (includes insurance) for a semester. The additional \$180 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) visa fee is paid online upon registration in the SEVIS system with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Airfare costs vary and are purchased by the exchange student.

SCI's Annual Youth Leadership Summit: This annual summit is designed to empower young people to think globally and become instrumental in promoting peace, mutual respect, and prosperity. The 2015 Youth Leadership Summit took place from July 16-18 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and provided a specialized Model UN simulation, a service project, speaker sessions, and peer interactions. Registration with lodging for a member city youth was \$525, and \$295 without lodging.

SCI's Young Artists and Authors Showcase: The showcase encourages high school students between the ages of 13 to 18 from around the world to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, and film. The 2016 theme is "Peace through People," commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCI. There is no fee for the Artists or Authors Showcase, and a \$25 fee for the Sister Cities Film Challenge. Grand Prize winners in each category receive \$1,000 in cash, with additional finalists selected for each category. All winners and finalists are published on the SCI website and their works displayed at the 2016 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., becoming part of a tour in selected cities following the conference.