



## **Dayton to welcome Bosnian student/teacher group**

-The sixth visiting cohort since 2019-

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The City of Dayton will welcome a group of 18 students (ages 16 to 18) and three teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the three-week Dayton-Bosnia Youth Leadership Program. This visiting cohort is the sixth since 2019 and represents the cities of Livno, Zenica, and Brčko District.

A welcoming event will take place on Friday, Oct. 18, at Dayton International Airport at 7 p.m. While in Dayton, the group will visit area cultural, recreational and educational attractions and organizations.

A delegation from Dayton traveled to Bosnia in 2015 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, which was negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and effectively ended the Bosnian War. The Dayton-Bosnia Youth Leadership Program grew from connections made during that visit.

Visiting students and teachers will have opportunities to explore ideals and practices of democracy, dialogue, conflict management, community and civic engagement, diversity, and volunteerism, while learning alongside U.S. peers. Additionally, the students and teachers will experience American life through homestays with local host families.

The program is made possible by a \$120,000 cooperative agreement between the City of Dayton and the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo and made possible by the U.S. Dept. of State. The Dayton Mediation Center (DMC), part of the Department of Planning, Neighborhoods and Development, manages the cooperative agreement as award recipient. DMC enjoys a partnership with the Dayton Sister City Committee to provide exceptional programming and opportunities for the program participants. Past participants credit the Dayton-Bosnia Youth Leadership Program as “life changing” and “an opportunity for friendship otherwise not known.”

Additional events: The Bosnian group will be introduced at the City of Dayton Commission meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 8:30 a.m. A farewell event will take place on Monday, Nov. 4, at the Dayton Metro Library (215 E. Third St., Eichelberger Forum, at 5 p.m.).

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