



Dayton hosts seventh Bosnia and Herzegovina youth delegation

-During the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords-

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The City of Dayton will welcome a delegation of 18 students and three teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina for a three-week Youth Leadership Program beginning Oct. 29. This year's exchange holds special significance as it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

While in Dayton, the visitors will participate in commemorative events and engage in leadership activities designed to grow appreciation of peace-building and international cooperation. This year's cohort represents the cities of Livno and Zenica.

The program provides participating youth and educators with an immersive opportunity to explore democratic governance, dialogue, civic engagement, community-building, and volunteerism alongside peers in the United States. Participants will live with local host families during their stay in Dayton, offering a meaningful experience of American culture and everyday life.

Program alumni have described the experience as "life-changing" and "an opportunity for friendship otherwise not known."

The visit is made possible through a \$120,000 Cooperative Agreement of the U.S. Department of State between the City of Dayton and the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo. The Youth Leadership Program originated in the early 2000s, and the City of Dayton became the U.S. partner in 2019. Since then, Dayton has successfully competed for grant funding and has continued to serve as the host site.

The visit is coordinated locally by the Dayton Mediation Center, a division of the City of Dayton Department of Planning, Neighborhoods & Development. With decades of expertise in conflict management, the Center is uniquely positioned to lead the initiative, given Bosnia and Herzegovina's post-conflict context and ongoing reconciliation efforts. The Center is partnering with the Entrepreneurs' Center and the Dayton Sister City Committee to deliver high-impact programming, professional development opportunities, and cultural exchange experiences.

Public events:

Welcome Ceremony
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m.
Dayton International Airport

Introduction at City Commission Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m.

101 W. Third St, second floor

Farewell Event

Monday, Nov. 17, 5 p.m.

Dayton Metro Library, 215 E. Third St., Eichelberger Forum

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Disclaimer: "This program is funded [in part] by a grant from the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the author[s] and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of State."

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