



Dayton to host students and teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Young Leader Academy results from a four-city collaboration-
- Host families sought for October 2019 -

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A relationship between Dayton and cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina has generated a youth leadership exchange that will bring students and teachers to Dayton in October of 2019.

During the visit, 18 students and three teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina will experience the best Dayton has to offer in the areas of education, culture, and person-to-person exchanges.

The "Four Cities Young Leader Academy" is a collaborative effort of the Dayton Mediation Center, the Dayton Sister City Committee, and multiple partner organizations in Dayton and Bosnia and Herzegovina, made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of State.

To support the program, the Dayton Mediation Center has received a \$120,000 grant award from the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo through the State Department's Youth Leadership and Teacher Professional Development Program.

The Dayton Mediation Center connection to Bosnia and Herzegovina began in 2016, when the Dayton Sister City Committee led a delegation to visit Dayton's sister city of Sarajevo, as well as Banja Luka and Mostar. The trip came on the heels of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords and the signing of an agreement among the mayors of Dayton and the three cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The agreement's aim was to encourage the cities to work closely with one another. The youth leadership effort is a direct result of subsequent efforts.

Commissioner Matt Joseph, the City Commission's ex-officio member on the Dayton Sister City Committee, underlined the importance of the exchange: "This program offers an exciting opportunity to strengthen existing ties with our sister

city, Sarajevo, and the cities of Mostar and Banja Luka. These experiences help equip young leaders to be change makers when they return home. The City of Dayton is honored to have been selected to develop this program, and we're grateful for the leadership of our local partners who have stepped up to help us ensure that these students have a truly meaningful experience."

As the Dayton Sister City Committee chair and a Mediation Center staff member, Arch Grieve is leading the project.

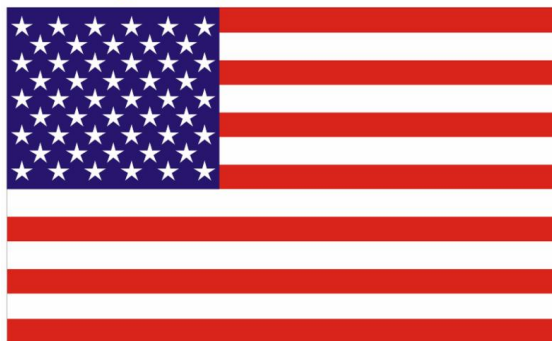
"We are utilizing a project-based learning approach in the design of this exchange. The goal is to help the students answer the driving question, 'How do we enact change in a democracy?'" Grieve explains. "The students and teachers will experience three stages of the exchange, with the first stage geared towards helping them learn about the ideals of American democracy, which will include a trip to Columbus, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. During the second stage, students will learn about some of the current challenges to those ideals and meet people who are working to effect change through democratic means. Finally, students will generate ideas of the changes they want to see in their own cities, cantons, and country, and receive training in the tools they need to attract and recruit others to join them in making those changes happen."

Multiple local organizations have already committed to participating, including the Dayton Council on World Affairs, Dayton Metro Library, Dayton Municipal Court, the Dayton Regional STEM School, the Dayton Society of Artists, the Greater Dayton Young Democrats and the Greater Dayton Young Republicans, The Entrepreneurs Center, the Hall Hunger Initiative, Gem City Market, LORE, The Miami Valley School, Sinclair Community College, South Slavic Club of Dayton, Stivers School for the Arts, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the University of Dayton, Welcome Dayton, and Wright State University.

Homestay families are needed to host students and teachers. Individuals and families can get more information at dayton Sister City Committee.org/homestay and should apply by March 31. A per diem allowance will be provided to hosts.

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The Dayton Sister City Committee was created by the Dayton City Commission in 1964. Committee members are appointed by the Dayton City Commission and City of Dayton government. The Dayton Sister City Committee is a member of Sister Cities International (SCI). SCI was created by President Eisenhower in 1956 in conjunction with a conference on citizen diplomacy. Its mission is to "Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time." Learn more at daytonsisitercitycommittee.org.

The Dayton Mediation Center was established by the City of Dayton in 1987 in an effort to ease the impact of community conflicts on public resources. The Center has become a trusted resource as one of the oldest and most robust conflict intervention resources in the country for those wishing to engage conflict constructively. The Dayton Mediation Center intervenes in more than 1,000 conflict situations annually. The Center's services have been utilized by residents, neighborhood organizations, businesses, employers and employees, schools, law enforcement agencies and court systems. Learn more at daytonmediationcenter.org.

