



MAYOR MARY SHEFFIELD

# Detroit Sister Cities Exchange Program 2026 Program Information

To apply for the Detroit Sister Cities Exchange Program, you must submit **all** of the required items listed below. Please review this page thoroughly before submitting your application.

## Program Application

Type your answers on the application. Complete all questions on the application, print it out and then sign it. Your parent or legal guardian also must sign the application.

## Essay

Applicants are required to complete a 500-word essay. The essay should be typed on 8½" x 11" white paper, using 12-point font and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Please type your name on each page of the essay. You should incorporate **all** of the following points in your essay.

- 1) Why you should be selected as an exchange student for the Detroit Sister Cities Program
- 2) What you hope to gain from this experience
- 3) What effect do you think this experience will have on you in the future
- 4) What do you hope your Japanese host family will learn from you

## High School Transcript

You are required to submit an **official** transcript reporting your grades in high school, beginning in ninth grade until present. Please have your school counselor return the official transcript to you in a **sealed** envelope to include with the application.

## References

On the application, please provide the names of three individuals who can serve as references. These individuals must include one current teacher or counselor. **Do not include relatives or friends.**

After your application is received, these references will be contacted by the program coordinator.

## Background Information

Each applicant is asked questions about any past disciplinary action or contact with the criminal justice system. If you answer yes to any question, please submit your explanation of the incident, along with a statement from your legal representative, principal, counselor, etc. on official letterhead verifying your account of the incident(s).

## Submission Information

Please send the completed application, essay and official transcript in the same envelope by Friday, March 27 to: Detroit Sister Cities Program, c/o Rose Love, 18851 Puritan Street, Detroit, MI 48223.

## Program Timeline

<b>April &amp; May</b>	Review of Applications & In-Person Interviews
<b>By May 15</b>	Participants Selected
<b>May - July</b>	Orientation (sessions for 6 weeks at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center)
<b>July 14 – 29</b>	Homestay in Toyota City, Japan

For more information, contact Rose Love at (313) 850-1940 or [lover@detroitmi.gov](mailto:lover@detroitmi.gov).