



Some Sister City projects provide an opportunity for the exercise of initiative and old fashioned teamwork by the youngsters. Band members of Rogers Junior High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida raised all the expenses of their trip to Medellin, Colombia, working on all kinds of projects over a period of months. They had a memorable time in Medellin where they gave daily parades and concerts in schools and city plazas receiving a heroes' welcome everywhere.

Interest in the study of foreign languages has seen a marked increase in affiliated cities because of the personal involvement of students and adults in visits, correspondence and exchange programs. Acquaintance with the Sister City language becomes a useful program tool instead of an academic exercise when there is the added incentive of meeting friends from abroad.



In one of the largest efforts of its kind, some three thousand York, Pennsylvania students are attending French language classes conducted by exchange teachers from Arles, its Sister City. On the West Coast, two Portland, Oregon high schools and both colleges are offering Japanese language and area studies since the start of the Sapporo affiliation. This is representative of the burgeoning interest in Japanese language and culture all along the Coast originally emanating from the twinned communities. Many cities affiliated with Mexico and places in Central and Latin America are conducting Spanish classes as part of their Sister City program.

The widened interests that result from a Sister City program can be harnessed to educational objectives. Spirited teachers find all kinds of opportunities to do this but to cite just one example--several elementary schools undertook to have their students explain what they do in the United States during the four "seasons" through art. The result was hundreds of intriguing and thoughtful interpretations of how youngsters in that city saw themselves in the winter, fall, spring, and summer through their posters which made a big hit in the Sister City and was reciprocated the next year.

A widely shared Sister City program widens the horizons of participating individuals in your community, it permits them to peek behind the stereotype into the living room of a foreign culture. They become more tolerant, more alive, more compassionate in the process.