

WHY BE A MEMBER?

One of the foremost means to secure a sound, vital and lasting Sister Cities Program is to be a member of Sister Cities International [SCI]. SCI provides information, facilitation and consultation services and programs for all U.S. sister cities programs that are members of the national association. SCI is dedicated to helping sister cities programs and their volunteers accomplish their purposes.

Membership in the national association supports:

building cooperative national and international networks of individuals and organizations that aid in the development of sister cities partnerships;

achieving quality services for all member programs through leadership training, including the SCI volunteer state coordinators who work directly with programs in their states;

the global growth of the sister cities movement, working to achieve peace and understanding among the peoples of the world; public relations efforts that bring worldwide recognition to local programs and increase public awareness about the growing need for international competence and understanding;

unequaled opportunities for local programs and communities to experience and explore other cultures through long-term partnerships that are developed and established. This helps to create a network of partnerships around the world—a resource unmatched in value;

creative possibilities for sister cities programs to open dialogue and to seek solutions about issues ranging from the technical to the human, from the environmental to the cultural and beyond.

In short, your membership in the national association harnesses the sense of mutual purpose of sister cities to further the cause of peaceful and substantive partnerships on a global scale.

There are practical benefits, too. All members are eligible for:

- quarterly issues of *Sister City News*. One subscription for each \$10 of membership
- 25% discount on all publications
- reduced registration fees for the annual conference
- voice and vote for association leadership and policies
- notice of state and regional meetings that provide networking opportunities
- notice of bilateral and international sister cities meetings
- the annual awards program
- insurances—medical and accident insurance for exchanges and director's and officer's liability insurance for local programs.
- the Young Artist Program which offers a \$500 scholarship for each of twelve winners
- Eisenhower Scholarships and a variety of grant programs.

If your sister cities program is not a member of SCI you are really missing out on a number of wonderful opportunities that help to enrich and strengthen your program. For more information and a membership application, please contact Najia Aziz Arsalayee, Manager of Membership Services at SCI at 703/836-3535, Extension 36.