



## Walnut Creek Sister Cities International Youth Ambassador Exchange (YAE!!) 2017-2018

Thank you for your interest in the Walnut Creek Sister Cities International (WCSCI) Youth Ambassador Exchange (YAE!!) Program. WCSCI is non-profit organization that was formed by a group of Walnut Creek citizens in 1987. It was formed in the spirit of global citizen diplomacy. For nearly 30 years, members have established relationships with our sister cities in Siofok, Hungary and Noceto, Italy through programs organized by WCSCI. In 2012, these programs expanded to include the youth of Walnut Creek, and YAE!! came into existence.

WCSCI invites the following students to apply for our YAE!! 2017-2018 program:

- *Students that reside in Walnut Creek, CA (or one or both parents)*
- *Seventh grade students with a first semester GPA of 3.0 or greater (with no F's)*

**Further information about the program and application process detailed below:**

### **Program Commitments (May 2017-April 2018)**

#### ● **Students**

##### **2017**

- February: Applications due
- March: in-person panel interviews
- April: Accepted students notified
- April: Attend WCSCI dinner to meet this year's exchange students
- May - June: Students are matched to Hungarian or Italian host students
- May - June: General orientation and welcome meeting
- Summer: Ice Cream Social at Civic Park
- Summer: Communication with exchange student and family commences
- Late August/September: 4-1.5 hour orientation sessions
- September: Prepare and present one report about host city and/or country (assigned topic)
- **October: Travel to Host City (6-7 school days missed)**
- October: Attend WCSCI dinner and speak for 1-2 minutes about experience
- October or November: Attend Walnut Creek City Council meeting, introductions and two students asked to talk about the trip

##### **2018**

- February-April: Students help parents plan and finalize Host Week
- **April: Host Week (three school days missed)**

- **Parents**

- 2017**

- May - June: Attend Welcome/Orientation session
- Summer: Attend Ice Cream Social with your student
- Summer: Encourage communication between your student and host student. Also start communication with host family.
- Late August/September: Possibly host one orientation session at your home and provide snacks
- September: Provide required contact information to chaperones as requested (typically phone numbers for texting updates and photos) and be sure student is communicating with host student/family.
- **October: Drop students at bus-pick-up area at specified time and with passport!**
- October: Attend WCSCI dinner
- October or November: Attend Walnut Creek City Council Meeting
- December: Begin forming host week committees

- 2018**

- January-April: Plan/organize/execute Host Week (***mandatory***)
- **April: Host Week (plan to take at least one day of work off per family)**

### **Financial Obligations\***

- \$2,000 October Exchange (airfare, medical and trip insurance, group transportation, host gifts, YAE!! administration fee)
- \$500 April Host Week (daily excursions, transportation, food, entertainment, and gifts)
- \$45 WCSCI family membership
- Valid Passport (must be valid for at least 6 months *post* travel)

\*Approximate costs based on the previous four years. Airfare and currency exchange rates may fluctuate.

### **Application Process**

- To apply to become a 2017/2018 YAE!! Student Ambassador, you must provide and arrange for the following documents to be completed and submitted by **February 28, 2017**.
  - **Complete the YAE!! Online Basic Student Information online application and be sure to click submit at the end:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/JbjcaSA3ipVftePQ2>

- **Complete and return the Student Questionnaire *and* a copy of your 7th grade 1<sup>st</sup> semester report card (if not available yet, just send 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report for now) to the address below by February 28, 2017.**
- **Provide *two* current teachers (core, math or science) with a Teacher Evaluation form to be completed and sent by them to the YAE!! Committee. This is a confidential document and must be returned by the teacher. Students should provide their teachers with a stamped, addressed envelope.**

- Oral interviews will be scheduled for mid-March (pending completion of all required documents). We will contact you to schedule.

**WCSCI YAE!! Committee**  
**P.O. BOX 30387**  
**Walnut Creek, CA 94598\***

\*Please send student questionnaire, copy of report card, and teacher recommendations here

**Selection Criteria**

- Applicants will be assessed on the following:
  - Written Student Questionnaire
  - Oral Interview
  - Teacher Recommendations
  - Grades
- Approximately 20 students will be offered a spot in the program, and up to four students will be added to the wait-list

Thank you for your interest in this program and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Regards,

Clint Collier, President, WCSCI  
Fran Doggett, Vice President and YAE!! Oversight, WCSCI

[www.wcsci.org](http://www.wcsci.org)

**Student Name:**

**Part I. Online Basic Student Information**

<https://goo.gl/forms/JbjcaSA3ipVftePQ2>

**Be sure to click “Submit” at the end**

**Part II. Student Questionnaire and Grade Submission  
WCSCI Youth Ambassador Exchange Program**

**Complete the following questions by hand, and in ink.**

1. How would you describe Walnut Creek to someone who has never been to California, or even the United States?

2. What do you think the responsibilities of an Ambassador are? Why should you be selected to be a Walnut Creek Youth Ambassador?

**Student Name:**  
YAE!! Student Exchange

3. Describe any travel experiences you have had. Of all the places you've been, which was your favorite and why?

4. Tell us about your family. Do you have siblings? Pets?

5. What extracurricular, volunteer, or community activities are you involved in?

**Student Name:**

I agree to confidentially disclose any allergies or special needs I may have upon my selection. I understand that I must return this application with a **copy** of my first semester grades (current school year) by **February 28, 2017**. I must also request recommendations, via the forms provided, from two teachers to be returned by the teacher on or before **February 28, 2017**. We agree to abide by the selection process and decision of the WCSCI Youth Ambassador Exchange Program committee.

By signing below, I acknowledge I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) completed this application on my own. I received no assistance in answering questions 1 – 6, Part II.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

By signing below, I \_\_\_\_\_ (parent name) acknowledge my student completed questions 1 – 7, Part II on his / her own.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

Questions? Contact [yae@wcsci.org](mailto:yae@wcsci.org)

**Walnut Creek Sister City International  
Youth Ambassador Exchange (YAE!!) Program 2017-2018**

**Part III. TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM**

The Walnut Creek Sister City International Organization (WCSCI) organizes an exchange program with our sister cities every year. This October, twenty 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will travel to either Hungary or Italy. Next spring (2018), the twenty middle school students from Italy and Hungary will visit our schools in Walnut Creek.

Seventh grade students residing in Walnut Creek and entering 8th grade in the fall are encouraged to apply by **February 28**. Those traveling to our sister cities will stay with host families, attend middle school, and tour the surrounding areas. Please note, this is not a school or City of Walnut Creek sponsored or organized event. Participation is voluntary and paid for by the families.

As part of the application process to participate in a one-week Youth Ambassador Exchange with Walnut Creek's sister cities in Siofok, Hungary or Noceto Italy, each applicant has been asked for two teacher recommendations. These recommendations should be from current, core, math, or science teachers. Answers on this form do not necessarily limit participation in this program. This form will help paint a picture of the student's ability to be a positive Walnut Creek ambassador when visiting Hungary or Italy. Information on this form is kept strictly confidential and will only be reviewed by the small interview committee.

**\*Teachers, please send form directly to the WCSCI YAE!! Committee (address below).**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Recommendation Form given to teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Taught: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the box 1-4, 1=Below Expectations, 2= Meets Expectations, 3= Above Expectations, 4 = Exceeds Expectations**

	1	2	3	4
a. Interacts well with classmates				
b. Behavior in class				
c. Participates in class				
d. Helps other students				
e. Has self initiative/motivated				
f. Is respectful to others				
g. Pays attention in class				
h. Completes assignments on time				
i. Follows directions				

Would you recommend this student as an ambassador? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Please explain why you think this student should or should not be an ambassador.

Please list any additional comments or concerns? (Please be candid)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**

**Please return the completed forms to:**

**WCSCI YAE!! Committee**

**P.O. BOX 30387**

**Walnut Creek, CA 94598**

Questions? Contact [yae@wcsci.org](mailto:yae@wcsci.org)

**FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 28, 2017**