

2026 Student Application Questions- to prepare before applying online.

SHORT ANSWERS

Please prepare short answers to these questions to have them ready for your application (submitted online).

1 What World Language(s) have you studied and please give grades/ proficiencies for each. If you haven't studied the language of the country you would like to travel to, what will you do to prepare yourself?

2 Besides studying a world language, what classes, books, activities, travel, relationships, or other experiences have helped prepare you to learn about another culture? How have these experiences shaped your interest in participating in the Gastonia Sister Cities exchange program?

3 Describe how you spend your time outside of school, including clubs, sports, music, work, volunteering, hobbies, or family responsibilities. Which of these activities would you most enjoy sharing with your host family?

4 Describe any jobs, volunteer positions, or regular responsibilities you have had. What did you learn from those experiences?

5 Tell us about a time you made someone else feel welcome or included. What did you do, and why?

6 Describe a time you worked as part of a team. What role did you naturally take, and why?

7 Describe a time when you interacted with someone whose background, beliefs, culture, or life experiences were different from your own. What did you learn from that experience, and how might it help you as an exchange student?

8 What strengths, experiences, or personal qualities would help you be an excellent representative of Gastonia and the United States? Please include specific examples.

9 What parts of your family, community, or American life would you be most excited to share with your host family?

ESSAY

Please prepare a 450-500 word essay and save as .doc or .pdf and prepare to upload on your application online.

Being an exchange student is about much more than traveling. It means becoming part of another family, adapting to unfamiliar customs, representing your community, and building relationships across cultures.

Prompt: Imagine that it is your third day with your host family. Some things feel unfamiliar, you are still adjusting to a hearing a different language and routine, and you are beginning to miss home. Describe how you would approach this experience. What attitudes, personal qualities, and actions would help you be successful? What would you hope to learn from your host family, and what would you hope they learn about you and your community?

Use specific examples from your own life to support your response. Please write in your own words without the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The selection committee is interested in your authentic voice and experiences.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a student Ambassador for Gastonia Sister Cities. We look forward to reading your application.