



Application Requirements: Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen, live in Scottsdale or attend a SUSD school, be a current sophomore or junior in high school, be in good health (and, upon request, be able to supply a doctor's statement of verification) and commit to live in Scottsdale for the 2026-2027 school year. Applicant must be or become a member of the International Club at his or her respective school.

Applications: Applications are available from the International Club Sponsors at Arcadia, Saguaro, Chaparral, Coronado, and Desert Mountain. In addition, the application is available from Lisa White, Interlaken Chair, at: E-mail: arizonasun74@gmail.com and on the www.scottsdalesistercities.com website under student programs.

Due Date: Completed applications must be received no later than **3:30 PM on February 6, 2026.**

Selection Process: All applicants will participate in a group interview followed by an individual interview conducted by the Student Exchange Selection Committee in February. Applicants will be notified by e-mail of the interview times. Final selection of eligible candidates will be made by March 2026. Applicants will also be required to attend one meeting with his or her parents in the fall, and informational meetings approximately once a month to learn educational information about Scottsdale and Interlaken, learn how to fulfill the role of a Youth Ambassador and student leader, and to learn some basic Swiss German. These meetings are usually one Sunday afternoon of each month beginning in the fall, though there will be two meetings in the spring. One spring meeting will be to match you with your Swiss sister/brother.

Travel and Hosting Dates: The student will act as a Youth Ambassador of Scottsdale, and will begin by hosting in fall of 2026 for about two weeks approximately Sept. 26-Oct. 6, 2026. Scottsdale students will travel to Interlaken, Switzerland during spring break, March 2024. You will stay with a host family for the exchange period, attend school at the Gymnasium, Interlaken in their English Immersion program and explore other cultural and educational sites in Switzerland.

Cost: The student will be responsible for the travel costs of the trip, which will include airfare and Swiss Rail Pass. The program will cover all of the living and transportation costs in Switzerland. The previous trip cost each student about \$1800. We are again seeking approval for Tax Credits to be used for most of this expense, but will receive a definite answer until fall of 2026. Also, SSCA will seek scholarship money and tax credits for students with financial need.

Special Notes: The SSCA Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke the selection of any delegates prior to departure and also to determine the need for an early return to Scottsdale of any delegate at his or her parent's expense due to not abiding by the SUSD Code of Conduct.

Passports: Obtaining a passport is the responsibility of the delegate and his/her family. The passport should be received prior to September 2026 and be valid until at least September 2027. It is recommended that delegates apply immediately following his or her selection. No visa is required for Switzerland, but we will have a form to fill out for entry prior to travel.

Please refer any questions to Lisa White arizonasun74@gmail.com

Upon selection, student will require a family membership in Scottsdale Sister Cities Association and purchase a SSCA t-shirt (\$25).