



City of Killeen



Killeen-Osan Sister Cities

P. O. Box 4186

Killeen, Texas 76540



City of Osan

Student Exchange Program 2011

Killeen Sister Cities, Osan, Korea Inc.

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you for applying to the Student Exchange Program sponsored by Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities. This is an exciting program available to students enrolled in high schools in the Killeen Independent School District. We hope that this packet will answer some questions you may have and provide you the necessary information to start your family on a life-changing cultural journey you will never forget.

What is Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities?

Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities is one small part of an international organization, Sister Cities International. Our mission is to foster mutual understanding, friendship, and peace through cultural, social, educational, and economic exchanges between the people of Killeen and people in similar cities in other countries. The organization was the concept of President Dwight D. Eisenhower who believed that friendships made in times of peace would greatly benefit the United States in times of crisis. Over time, we have seen that to be true. When Katrina swept through Louisiana, it was New Orleans' sister cities that stepped up with aid while the government was trying to sort out its first emergency measures. In 1996, the City of Killeen established a sister city relationship with Osan, Korea. In the past several years, Killeen, Texas-Osan, Korea Sister Cities raised funds for the Korean War Monument located next to the Killeen Civic and Conference Center and hosted two award ceremonies for Korean War veterans. Our current projects include the City of Killeen Soccer Exchange, the Annual International Festival, the Korean Dance Project that brings traditional Korean dance performances to Killeen, and the Student Exchange Program.

What is the Student Exchange Program?

The Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities Student Exchange Program was started in 2006. The current exchange, which will take place in 2011, will be the sixth cycle of five (5) Korean students coming to Killeen in February to stay with American host families for 3 weeks and five (5) American students going to Korea in June to stay with Korean host families for 3 weeks. We are seeking candidates that are juniors or rising seniors so that they are of the same age and maturity level as Osan's candidates. Both cities have agreed to select three girls and two boys. This year Killeen will also select one girl alternate and one boy alternate in case one of the candidates withdraws at the last minute from illness or a family emergency. The alternates will

become first choice candidates the following year. Students do not need to be of Korean heritage nor do they need to speak Korean, but they do need to understand that they will be staying with families who may or may not speak any English. Students who are outgoing, adventurous or inquisitive, and flexible are going to enjoy this experience the most. The student's experience of participating in a city program by attending school and living in Korea with a typical Korean family and interacting with government officials of the City of Osan is a global experience invaluable to college applications and job resumes. The family's experience of living with a person of another culture with limited English is challenging, fun and enlightening to all members of the household. There is nothing more exciting than sharing your culture with someone who really wants to learn about it.

To make it easier on both Korean and American students, we arrange for students to meet at the Killeen Airport and gravitate naturally into partners over dinner. Once girl/girl and boy/boy partnerships have been established, the newly arrived Korean student goes home with his American partner, staying with his partner's family for the entire 3 weeks. The same American partner will stay with that Korean student when it is his turn to go to Korea in June right after school is out. These partnerships generally develop into deep bonds among students and families. The deep attachments that develop in less than a month are truly amazing.

When Korean students come here, they are kept very busy for three weeks. Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities usually hosts several dinners and some activities for the Koreans and their American partners. They like to karaoke, play sports, shop, and sight-see. Because American students are in the middle of school, the Korean students will accompany their partners to school each day to learn about our school system. The same thing happens when American students go to Korea. When American students go to Korean schools, they might be part of shoe-making, culinary arts, or English language classes. They will play a lot of soccer. They will be attending school from 8:00 in the morning until 8-9 at night, as is the Korean custom, and they will participate in cleaning the school since that is part of students' responsibilities; there is no janitorial staff. Since Korean students wear school uniforms, American students might be given a uniform to wear. They eat Korean food and live the Korean life. The culture shock is overwhelming the first few days on both sides, but they settle into the culture fast and it is a life-changing experience for some. Most importantly, they make life-long friends.

What will it cost?

There are some basic costs involved. Some costs we must estimate because things such as

airfare are apt to change, but we feel that the figures below are relatively accurate:

1.	Flight to and from Korea	approx \$1700/ current fare
2.	Passport (if required)	\$100
3.	Gift to host family	\$25-35
4.	Student medical insurance	\$50 – prices vary
5.	Spending money on personal souvenirs	\$100+
	Total	\$2000

Once students are in Korea, their transportation, planned activities, and food will be provided and funded by either the City of Osan or the hosting family. If students go on personal outings such as shopping after school, that is at their own expense. The same will hold true for Korean students living here. Both cities will plan and fund some dinners at local restaurants, some sight-seeing activities, and some local activities such as karaoke, bowling, or something similar. If the hosting family wishes to plan a trip or special activity, it is up to the individual family who will then fund it themselves; however, between school, co-curricular activities, and the activities provided by the city, students have the opportunity to do some special things and will stay busy without a family-hosted trip. Some families get corporate sponsors to donate money, and others do fund-raising to offset the cost. We have some ideas to get you started, but you are totally responsible for organizing and operating any fund-raising you do. Enterprising students have gathered groups of their friends to help them and have managed to reduce their costs impressively. Some students borrow money from parents and do the fund-raising later – those are individual decisions that each family will need to make.

The airline tickets must be paid for in March. If a student backs out of the trip after the ticket has been paid for, the airlines will not refund the full amount. Therefore, the student stands to lose about \$300 if he changes his mind after March, and there will be nothing we can do about that. That is the policy of Korean Airlines.

How about the trip to Korea?

Students arriving at the airport must have their passport AND a picture ID. Several Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities members will accompany students as a group on the flight to Korea and help them get accustomed to their partners and host families. All students are required to travel together to Korea with the Sister Cities officials. Our Osan hosts go to a lot of trouble to greet us, and it is rude to have them make several trips to the airport to pick up different parties. It also throws off their itinerary they have set in place for us. Killeen, Texas

- Osan, Korea Sister Cities also does home inspections, both in the U.S. and in Korea to ensure that accommodations are adequate, and everyone is comfortable with the arrangements. Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities members generally stay for a week until students are in their routine before returning to the States. Since Sister Cities officials will not be accompanying students on their return trip, it is imperative that students travel back together. Osan ensures they board the correct plane, and Sister Cities officials monitor their flights carefully to ensure everyone's smooth return. Although it would be nice to grant permission to those students who wish to stay longer and tour or visit relatives, it is imperative that students stay in a group to travel home to ensure that all students are accounted for and no one is left to travel alone. Students and parents must understand that for safety issues, there is no exception to this rule. Similarly, two City of Osan officials will accompany Korean students here and will inspect each Killeen home to ensure that facilities are adequate. They will stay about one week and depart. At the end of 3 weeks, host families deliver the students to the airport and ensure that they get on the correct plane. The plane carries students, traveling as a group, to Dallas where they clear customs and change planes to return to Killeen. Students are not accompanied back by Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities members, but Killeen, Texas-Osan, Korea Sister Cities follows their travel closely. We have actually been surprised that our young travelers do not think that customs is any "big deal" and have had no problems doing this on their own.

What if the student gets sick?

You can be sure that the City of Osan and the City of Killeen monitor the students and check in with the families regularly. Since medical insurance is required, there is no problem with the family or city official taking them to a local doctor or hospital. Osan is a bigger city than Killeen and has wonderful medical facilities available. Killeen families, of course, are familiar with Metroplex, Scott and White, and private physician services depending on the illness. Remember that your child can call you, and you will have contact numbers of anyone you need.

How Do I Get a Passport?

If you do not already have a passport, the following information will provide instructions on how to apply or renew your passport. The current process takes approximately four to six weeks from the time the application is submitted until it is returned. It is best to process your passport application at your earliest convenience in order to ensure international travel preparations are completed in a timely manner. **Passports for 2011 are needed by March 31.** For first time applicants, you may complete the passport application online and print document at:

<https://pptform.state.gov/DS11/MainDS11.aspx> or

Print the passport application and complete in black pen:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/79955.pdf>

For replacement or renewal passport information, please go to

http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html

When completing your application, please indicate Houston, Texas as the location for which your application will be processed. After completing your application, the following is needed to submit the document for processing:

1. Proof of citizenship such as birth certificate.
2. Proof of identity: Texas Driver's License, Texas Identification Card, or Military ID
3. 2 recent passport sized (2 x 2 inches) color photos – may be obtained the your local Wal-Mart or Sears store as well as the Killeen Post Office – 300 N 10th St.
4. Fees total \$97:
 - a. \$55 passport processing Total payable to: U.S. Department of State
 - b. \$12 security surcharge }
 - c. \$30 application execution – Payable to: Killeen Post Office

For All Minors Ages 14 to 17:

- Minor child shall appear in person when applying.
- For security reasons, parental consent is requested.

If your child does not have identification of his/her own, you need to accompany your child and present identification. Submit your completed documentation, pictures, and fees to the Killeen Post Office located at 300 N 10th Street, downtown Killeen. If you have further questions, you may call 634-0281 for more information.

Will you Sign a Commitment Agreement?

The most important factor and one imperative to the success of this program is commitment. Students must *really* want to go, and families must *really* want to host a Korean student. Our cities have an agreement that we will host our students well. That means we want to treat our

visitors just like we want our Killeen students to be treated in Korea, and from the inception of this program, Killeen students get the royal treatment in Korea. Also, once we have promised the City of Osan that we have a set number of students, and they have selected their students, if it's too late for us to find a replacement, Osan must disappoint one of their students and tell them that they can't come to the United States as planned. For this reason, we ask that both student and parent sign a commitment letter (attached to packet) agreeing to some basic conditions.

In conclusion, we realize that this may look a little complicated. However, we need to ensure that the experience is wonderful for all involved; thus, the need for insurance, background checks, etc. Most students ask to go back, but in order to have a maximum number of students exposed to this international experience, we prefer to have different students every cycle. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you again for your interest. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Killeen, Texas – Osan, Korea Sister Cities
Application for Student Exchange
2011

1. Name _____ Name of High School _____

2. Current grade in high school _____ Age _____

3. Address _____

4. Telephone home _____ cell _____

5. Will you be able to purchase your ticket for \$1700 in Feb 2011? _____

6. Do you agree to have a background check? _____

7. Do you have a current passport or can you get one by March 31, 2011? _____

8. Do you agree to purchase student medical insurance? _____

9. Are you available to travel right after school is out in June 2011, to travel with the selected group and stay in Korea for the full 3 weeks? _____

12. Do you and your family agree to host a Korean student in February 2011 for three weeks? _____

13. What are some of your hobbies? _____

14. What career(s) are you considering? _____

15. On the back of this application, write a short explanation of why you would like to try this experience.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent

Date

*Dates listed above on this document depend on the schedule Osan provides.

Student Exchange Commitment Agreement

Student Name _____ Year of Participation in Program <u>2011</u> (Print)
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This certifies that the student and parent (1 parent is sufficient) agrees to the following conditions:

- As a student, I will commit to the entire cycle of hosting a Korean student in my home from 9 February 2011 to 1 March 2011 AND be available to go to Osan, Korea, in June 2011 as a guest in a Korean student's home for approximately 3 weeks. This includes traveling with my designated group, staying the full designated time, and not staying beyond the designated departure date. As a parent, I understand that my child will travel back with the student group and that they will be monitored in their travel, but that Sister Cities officials will not be traveling with them on the return flights.
- I will provide my own medical insurance (or have an active military ID card), spending money, airfare to and from Korea, and passport while in Korea. If I cancel my participation in this venture after I have paid for my airfare, I will forfeit \$400 of my refund to the airline company.
- If I decide to fund-raise to offset travel costs, I am responsible for planning and operating my own fund-raising efforts.
- I will complete a police background check and submit it with this document.
- As a student, I will attend all Sister Cities events associated with the Exchange Program in the year of my selection and provide a written report of my experience overseas to Killeen Sister Cities within 3 weeks of my return to Killeen. This means that, as an exchange student, you will attend Korean high school. You are not allowed to skip school to go shopping or traveling. Sister Cities must honor our commitment to Osan that you will attend school and the activities they have planned and paid for. As a parent, I will attend all mandatory Sister Cities meetings for parents and ensure that my child attends mandatory meetings for participating students.
- As a student, on my return, I will prepare a report and submit 3 copies (one to the Mayor of Killeen, one to the KISD Superintendent, and one to Killeen, Texas – Osan, Korea

Sister Cities on the details of my trip. I will come to the first Sister Cities meeting upon my return to tell about my trip and submit my report. I will also write a thank you letter to the City of Osan and to my host family within 2 weeks of my return.

- I will provide a \$25-35 gift to the hosting family.

- As a student, if I am found with contraband, participation in drugging, drinking, or other illicit activities, my trip will be cut short and I will be sent home immediately. Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities will inform the family of the situation.

This letter serves as a letter of commitment that (1) I will fully participate in all aspects of the program and that (2) my parents are fully aware of and agree to support these conditions, to include hosting a Korean student in my home for 3 weeks.

Candidates must deliver this signed document to Killeen, Texas - Osan, Korea Sister Cities within 3 days after the interviews.

(Student signature)

(Parent Signature)

(Date)