

SUMMARY

De Pere Sister Cities International Youth Conference Opportunity 2010

Quick Logistics

- Who:** One sophomore or junior aged student from each high school in De Pere
Two chaperones (to be determined)
- What:** Attend the "Youth Towards a Greener Future Europe" conference with youths from 10 other countries
- When:** Sat. April 10 through Sun. April 18 (5 school days) (including travel days)
- Where:** At the Not Quite Artist Cooperative @ 10 miles from Amal, Sweden
- Why:** Essentially three reasons
1. It is an unprecedented opportunity for our students to discuss global concerns with international peers
 2. The conference themes (environment, health, sustainability, global cooperation) are a high priority for our country's administration, as well as those of the European nations'
 3. To deepen and strengthen our ties to our Sister City

Conference Description/ Activities

- Housing/ Organization:** Each delegation will be housed in a separate cottage, but all activities will be conducted as a mixed, multi-national group entirely in English
- Instructional Seminars:** Create a common ground and vocabulary for rich discussion to begin the conference
- Peer Discussions/ Activities:** This is the central conference activity: The organizers are adamant about getting the youths talking and listening to each other, recognizing the common ground they share, and developing practical solutions to the problems they face
- Hands-on workshops:** Create products with their own hands using sustainable methods
- Community outreach activities:** Reinforces the conference themes of environment, sustainability, & connections to each other and their communities as an engaged citizen, not just a bystander

De Pere Student Criteria & Selection

- * Current sophomore or junior standing
- * Attends either De Pere or West De Pere High School
- * Good academic standing & accompanying skills (communication, teamwork, articulate and process ideas, eager to learn new things)
- * Willingness to commit to post-conference presentations to invested constituents
- * Personal interest/ aptitude for conference themes (environment, sustainability)
- * Extra-curricular involvement in school and/or community activities

Financial Commitments

- * Lodging, food, & conference costs for each attendee and chaperone.....paid by Europe Direct (organizer)
- * Travel expenses (airfare, train, or other transportation).....paid by Sister Cities De Pere*
- * Substitute teacher costs for potential chaperonespaid by Sister Cities De Pere*
- * Passport & miscellaneous personal spending costs.....paid by attendees/chaperones
*through local fundraising efforts in upcoming months

Protection & Security

- * A first aid team will be on hand in case of emergency
- * The conference has set clear policies banning alcohol & other substances
- * Sleeping quarters are single-sex & chaperones are expected to get youths to bed on time & keep them there
- * Applicants are required to disclose health information, allergies, etc as well as emergency contact information

Overall Selection Timeline

- November 2009 —Meet with superintendents & principals, create & market application
- December 2009 —Select conference participants & chaperones (by Sister City Board)

Excerpts Taken from the Project File Regarding the Nature of the Conference

FROM PART I: Summary of the Project

“.....We would like to give a group of 60 youths from ten different European countries (Scotland, Spain, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Estonia, Sweden, France) the opportunity to discuss different things regarding the environment and food and how it's connected with our health. We want, by introducing them to the exchange *“youths towards a greener future Europe”*, help the youths on the way to a healthy living which will, in the long-run affect the environment. We want, by gathering youths from all over Europe, see how it looks like in other countries. Hopefully we can be able to figure out a concept of how we can build a sustainable way of living for the earth that is also good for ourselves. The youths will during the week be discussing together in different theme related workshops. Here they will have to listen to each others opinions and thoughts and learn to be an active listener. There will also be a scheduled operation-workday where the youths in mixed groups will work together at different places around the municipality.”

FROM PART V: Project Objectives and Priorities

“....We want to increase the youth's interest and engage them to make a difference in order to get a more sustainable health and lifestyle. By inviting young people we can try to work from below and up, which means that if we help the youths on the way to a better health and lifestyle we can at the same time hopefully improve our environment. If we give the youths the opportunity to get knowledge about the importance of the environment, what we eat and how it is connected we believe that we can make a difference. Youths today are very aware of the problems that the earth is facing and most of them really want to make a difference. If we can help them on their way to a better future in any way we can then we will.

Through this exchange we can promote young people's active citizenship. The youths will not only learn a lot about the environment, food etc. They will also develop a mutual understanding for each other. By meeting youths from other countries in Europe the youths will get the chance to learn more about other cultures and lifestyles, they will see that we are more or less the same all over the world.

The main reason to why we have chosen to be at Not Quiet's artist cooperation is among other things to give the youths the chance to express themselves in different workshops through art and by making things with their own hands. We want to encourage the youths to become active citizens and help each other all over Europe to face the global challenges and try to make a difference for a greener future Europe.”

FROM PART V: Intercultural Dimension

“...Not only do the participants get a chance to bond over transnational games such as treasure hunting. They also get a chance to learn new games from each other. That way we have created a situation where the youths, regardless of background and culture, can teach each other new things. When teaching each other the youths communicate, get to know one another and get an invaluable insight in another culture. This will create a strong bond among the participants, a bond that will encourage them to keep in touch after the project [via Skype, Facebook, project website, etc], and thereby continue to exchange knowledge about their different cultures.”