

Gralen Eidam Wilson Youth Ambassador Scholarship Fact Sheet - 2019

WHO: Gralen Eidam Wilson Youth Ambassador Scholarship falls under the umbrella of the 501C3 nonprofit Santa Cruz Sister Cities Support group and works directly with the Santa Cruz Sister Cities program.

WHAT: It offers an annual summer scholarship to **one or two** students who will be a junior or senior in the Santa Cruz school system to visit a sister city of Santa Cruz (this year it is Sestri Levante, Italy) for a homestay of two to three weeks in that city. In return the scholarship recipient will be expected to host an Italian student from Sestri Levante in his/her home for a similar period of time, hopefully contiguously if school vacations allow.

WHEN: The five to six week period will begin shortly after the school years end in both cities and continue for up to six (6) weeks during the summer, ending shortly before the next school year begins— approximately during the period from late June to late August. Exact dates will be established once selection begins.

WHY: The goal of the exchange is to encourage cultural understanding and friendship between our two cities and increase youth involvement in the Sister Cities program. Each participant will be asked to put together a program or project that the student will pursue while visiting Sestri Levante which will encourage her/him to become an active part of the community life. The student from Sestri Levante will do the same while in Santa Cruz.

WHERE: Activities will be arranged in each city by the families of the participating students as well as the members of Sister Cities Committees/representatives of the Sister Cities programs of each participating city.

HOW: Funding will be provided by scholarship funds to cover all transportation costs to and from Santa Cruz to the sister city. Also a student health insurance policy covering the exchange student while away and the inbound student while in Santa Cruz will be covered. The host family in Sestri Levante will provide room and board for the student while in Sestri Levante. Each exchange student is responsible for all his or her own personal expenses. On his/her return the scholarship recipient will provide room and board for the returning student for the duration of his or her visit. The visiting student should be responsible for all personal expenses.