



City of Denison

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 19, 2023

Sister Cities Students Return from France to Explore Denison

Denison, Texas (July 19, 2023) – The City of Denison is proud to host students participating in the 2023 Sister Cities Student Exchange program this week. They arrived here in Denison, Texas, Tuesday, after previously spending two weeks in Cognac, France. This group consists of 10 French students and 10 students from right here in Denison.

The students' recent trip to Cognac, France included a visit to Cognac's City Hall to meet their mayor, a guided visit of Otard Castle, Chateau de la Roche-Courbon Castle, nicknamed the Castle of the Sleeping Beauty, the Air Force Base in Cognac, and fun activities including canoeing on the Charente River. Students were hosted in the homes of their French students and were able to experience life as a French student during their trip. They spent Bastille Day, a French National Day Celebration, with their host families. They ended their trip with a three-day tour of Paris, where they visited the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triumph, the catacombs, and more.

The students will now spend two weeks here in Denison, Texas learning all that we have to offer. The group will be touring local sites, including Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison City Hall, Vinita House (home of TV Munson), downtown Denison, Lake Texoma, and more. They will take trips to DFW for excursions like Six Flags, the Perot Museum, and Reunion Tower.

Our Denison Sister Cities, Inc., Youth Ambassador Exchange Program offers opportunities for Denison High School students to appreciate and understand the culture of our sister city through an abroad/home stay experience. Denison Sister Cities, Inc., sponsors this program for Denison youth as an investment in the future.

About the program:

Denison, Texas and Cognac, France have a long history of friendship and cooperation. During the phylloxera epidemic in the mid-1800's, which destroyed a vast majority of wine grapes in Europe, Denison horticulturist T.V. Munson worked with Cognac native Pierre Viala to pioneer methods of creating phylloxera-resistant vines. This work earned Munson an induction into the French Legion of Honor and paved the way for the sister city relationship that we cherish today.

Since 1992, Denison Sister Cities has been a part of the national not-for-profit volunteer movement initiated over 50 years ago by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. His people-to-people concept was created to further international understanding and goodwill between people of the U.S. and the rest of the world. The purpose of Sister Cities International program is to enable citizens from throughout the world to learn more about each other through educational, social cultural, and business exchanges. The goal is to promote understanding and appreciation at all levels of a community on a continuing, long-term basis.

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