

Limerick to Limerick: A Cultural Exchange

Ireland Study Tour Program

Time Frame of Program –February (USA) and Spring Break (IRL)

Cost – \$3200.00

The application must be completed and returned to Mr. Landis in room 297 by April 7th. The study tour is open to next year's seniors.

The study tour program will include academic experiences at our sister school in Limerick, Ireland, home-stays with Irish students and their families, travel to points of cultural interest throughout Ireland, and a reciprocal program for Irish students here at Spring-Ford.

Please understand that this program is not a vacation tour; rather, you are applying to serve as an ambassador not only of the Spring-Ford Area School District, but also of American culture. You will be expected to prepare for and participate in academic and cultural presentations, and will need to speak comfortably with your Irish hosts and their teachers, families, and friends, and get along with a wide variety of personalities.

Part One: Logistical Information

Directions: Please fill in the requested information.

A. Personal Data

1. Name: _____
2. Home Address: _____

3. Phone: _____
4. E-Mail: _____
5. Do you have a valid passport (circle one): YES NO

If you do not currently have a passport and you are accepted into the program, you must apply for one immediately!

B. School data

1. Provide a print copy of your classes, grades, and attendance record for the current school year as listed in Skyward and attach to this form. The trip to Ireland will require that you miss approximately 2.5 weeks of school. You must be willing to make up all missed work!
2. List any demerits you received in the last two semesters of school. Include the number of demerits received as well as the offense type.

C. Extra-curricular Activities

List all extra-curricular activities that you participate in during the school year. (This trip may coincide with your fall and spring sports season(s).)

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D. Friends and acquaintances

List any friends and/or other students you know who are applying for the Irish Exchange program.

E. Hosting Information

Is your family willing to host two students from Ireland for at least one week? The Irish students will join us in the U.S. sometime before Thanksgiving and we need homes for them to live in. If you can provide a hospitable environment and are willing to open your house to **two** of our guests, please indicate so below.

Yes! We would love to host two students during their stay in the U.S. _____

Maybe...We can't commit to hosting students at this time, but will consider it. _____

No. It will not be possible to host 2 students. _____

.....
A committee of teachers will make the selection of which students will be part of the exchange program. They will be looking at all known information about each student when making this decision. There is nothing specific that is a requirement for selection or specifics that would exclude a student. The final selection is totally subjective as the committee strives to select the best students for the exchange. The committee's selections are final and the pros and cons of applicants will not be discussed after the fact.
.....

Please sign and date this portion of the application below...

Printed Name: _____

Signature:

Student: _____

Parent / Guardian: _____

Date: _____

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Part Two: Personal Statement

Directions: Answer each of the questions in well-written paragraphs. By providing the committee with thoughtful, articulate answers, you will improve your chances for selection in the study tour program. Submissions must be typed and attached to this form.

Question 1

How will you deal with the following cultural challenges while in Ireland? Be certain to fully explain your responses!

- A. Respecting the cultural norms
- B. Surviving wet, cool weather
- C. Walking extensively, maintaining a positive attitude, and being flexible about unexpected schedule/itinerary changes
- D. Contributing positively to the dynamics of the group and following directives given by chaperones
- E. Eating local foods, many of which will be unfamiliar to you
- F. Adhering to a schedule that requires punctuality and group cooperation
- G. Double occupancy rooming arrangements in home-stay environments

Question 2

If you are selected for the study tour, you will be expected to embrace the role of cultural ambassador. What will you expect to see and experience in Ireland?

Question 3

What information about Spring-Ford, the surrounding area, state, country, school system, customs, and/or activities do you feel you must share with the Irish students (select a specific topic)? Make and submit a short PowerPoint presentation with script. (5-10 slides)

Part Three: Recommendations (See attached sheets)

Part Four: Interview

Directions: Panel interviews will be conducted with those students selected as finalists for the study tour program. Panel interviews are difficult to organize; you will need to adjust your personal schedule so you can attend the interview date assigned to you.

Part Five: Academic Requirements

Directions: We want to prepare you for the cultural experience ahead of you! If you are selected for the study tour, plan on participating in several sessions designed to help you understand both Ireland and the logistical aspects of the trip. During the coming school term you will be expected to maintain your grades and engage only in appropriate conduct.

Part Six: Monetary Requirements

Directions: We anticipate that the estimated total amount required for the study tour is approximately \$3100.00. This amount is all-inclusive, and payments can be made in installments on or before the following dates:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------|
| On or before | | |
| 1 st Installment | \$1000 | June 2020 |
| 2 nd Installment | \$1100 | September 2020 |
| 3 rd Installment | \$1100 | November 2020 |

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Part Seven: Parental Clearances

Directions: Before being accepted into the program all adults living permanently in your home must pass their **Substantial Contact Pennsylvania clearances**. These clearances are found on the district website at:

Spring-Ford Homepage
Community Tab
Volunteers

<http://spring-ford.net/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=237626&sessionid=b0bf8a1620213ba2cefabf124092ad3e>

SUBSTANTIAL CONTACT VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

[Annual Volunteer Registration and Disclosure Statement](#)

[TB Risk Assessment Questionnaire for Volunteers](#)

[Act 34: PA Criminal Record Certificate - FREE for volunteers](#)

[Act 151: Child Abuse History Certificate Report - FREE for volunteers](#)

[Act 114: FBI Criminal Clearance Report](#) (fingerprinting)

All clearances are to be submitted to the district office before August 31st, 2020.

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Part Three: Recommendation (1)

Name of Applicant: _____

Directions: In order for you to be considered for the study tour, you must provide a recommendation from a Spring-Ford High School teacher or administrator and one from an adult (not related) outside the school. This recommendation should attest to your academic and social strengths and must be by someone who has known you for at least one full school year. Please have your references fill in the portion below. They may place this portion of the application and anything additional in a sealed, signed envelope and return it to you or send as an attachment to dland@spring-ford.net with the subject heading of: "Limerick to Limerick Exchange Program Recommendation with the name of the applicant."

1. Name of the recommender (and contact information if not employed by SFASD):

2. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

3. Overall, please rate your agreement with the following statements by circling one of the options below.

A. "I believe this candidate will be a positive addition to the study tour, and I highly recommend him/her for inclusion in this program."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

B. "This candidate, to my knowledge, is highly capable of juggling social, familial, and academic demands."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

C. "This candidate is personable and comfortable in new, and possibly strange, situations."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

D. "The candidate handles alterations to established routines well."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

E. "The candidate values the choices and commitments they make."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

F. "The candidate is respectful to those of different temperaments, ideals, and values."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

G. "This candidate is dutiful to rules and regulations."

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Do not agree Strongly disagree

Please add any additional comments/concerns about this student's ability to participate in the Limerick to Limerick Exchange Program on the back of this sheet or attached on a separate sheet of paper.

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Part Three: Recommendation (2)

Name of Applicant: _____

Directions: In order for you to be considered for the study tour, you must provide a recommendation from a Spring-Ford High School teacher or administrator and one from an adult (not related) outside the school. This recommendation should attest to your academic and social strengths and must be by someone who has known you for at least one full school year. Please have your references fill in the portion below. They may place this portion of the application and anything additional in a sealed, signed envelope and return it to you or send as an attachment to dland@spring-ford.net with the subject heading of: "Limerick to Limerick Exchange Program Recommendation with the name of the applicant."

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