



2020 MEMPHIS IN MAY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL HONORING GHANA

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Grades 11 - 12

Criteria, Guidelines, and Information

A delegation of high school students and a chaperone will be selected to serve as Exchange Students for Memphis in May International Festival and will have the opportunity to travel to Ghana during March 2020 (travel dates to be determined). Selected students and chaperone will stay with host families and will attend classes at a host high school. The Memphis in May International Festival funds the round-trip airfare for each student and coordinates all arrangements with the host country.

Application Process

Application forms are supplied to unified Shelby County and private high schools. Please either check school principal and/or guidance counselor offices, print an application from the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org, or call the Memphis in May office at (901) 525-4611. To be considered, applicants must provide a completed application form, official school transcript, a 500 - 1,000-word essay, and three letters of recommendation, no later than **December 2, 2019**, and be available for an interview by the selection panel in early January of 2020.

Criteria for Selection

The Memphis in May Student Exchange Program is open to any student enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade during the August 2019 – June 2020 school year. Students must be enrolled in a Shelby County School, private school, or authorized home school within Shelby County. Students should be in good academic standing, demonstrate leadership involvement at school and in their community, possess outstanding communication skills, and possess an interest in increasing their appreciation of other cultures. Selected students must commit to sharing their experience and new knowledge of the honored country with local groups after their return, possibly including, but not limited to, school groups, local media, and community groups. Composition of submitted essay should possess strong theme, content, and style, and demonstrate exceptional writing ability, creativity, and communication skills.

Standards

Prior to travel, preparation sessions will be held with an emphasis on orientation to the culture and country which students will visit, travel details, and their responsibilities as Memphis in May ambassadors. A code of ethics, rules, and expectations will be established and shared prior to the trip. All school policies and agreements regarding student travel and absence from school will be followed. Should any school(s) prohibit students from missing classes as an excused absence or from international travel, students will be required to forego the trip and will be replaced with alternates.

Cost to Students

- Any required medical examination, including any travel shots required prior to travel to Ghana.
- Passport and Visa expenses.
- Individual spending money depending on individual spending preferences (Scholarships may be available, based on financial need of individual students).

**2020 MEMPHIS IN MAY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
HONORING GHANA**

**STUDENT EXCHANGE
PROGRAM**

Grades 11 - 12



STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

Full Name: (First, Middle, Last) _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian #1: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian #2: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Academic Information

Name of school you are presently attending: _____

Current Grade: _____ School phone number: _____

School Address: _____

Name of Teacher / Counselor: _____ Title: _____

What school subjects do you find most interesting? _____

**2020 MEMPHIS IN MAY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
HONORING GHANA**

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Grades 11 - 12

If you were selected and your host school in Ghana asked you to speak to a class of students about a particular subject or aspect of life in the United States, what topic would you discuss and why?

Essay & Additional Requirements

- Please submit this application, completed in its entirety, along with the additional components listed below. Make sure that all questions are addressed and answered to the best of your ability.
- Research and write on your own a 500 - 1,000-word essay on Ghana, a country with a rich culture. In your opinion, why should we celebrate Ghana, and what are some of its greatest cultural contributions to rest of the world? End with a paragraph on why you are interested in the Exchange Program and what impact you feel your participation will have on the trip. Submit essay with your application.
- With this application, please submit three original letters of recommendation from educators or other individuals (excluding relatives) who have known you for a year or longer and can attest to your commitment to education, qualities of leadership and/or involvement in community and extra-curricular activities.
- With this application, please submit your school transcript with school seal affixed. Students have the option to omit or “white out” their social security number on transcript for security purposes, if desired.
- Remember to attach a photo (no group photos, please) to the front of this application.
- Make sure that the signatures of both the applying student and legal parent or guardian appears at the bottom of this application as a show of consent.
- Application deadline is **Monday, December 2, 2019**. Applications must be received, not postmarked, on this date **by 3:00pm**. Applications can be mailed or delivered to: Memphis in May International Festival, ATTN: Student Exchange, 56 S. Front Street, Memphis, TN, 38103. If you have questions, e-mail **education@memphisinmay.org** or call (901) 525-4611, ext. 108.
- Failure to complete all questions or include all additional materials requested will void this application.

I have read the guidelines, criteria, and application, consent to the guidelines and the travel if selected, and certify that this application is true and essay is my own work.

Student

Parent/Legal Guardian

Date