**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE - SHEBOYGAN**

**Sheboygan-Esslingen Middle School Exchange Program**

**Summer 2025**

**Information for Interested Students and Parents**

People to People - Sheboygan has been sponsoring an annual exchange with Sheboygan’s sister city, Esslingen, Germany, since 1970. Since that time over 175 Sheboygan County high school students have participated in this unique program. Many have made lifelong friendships. Esslingen is a charming city of about 100,000 located in southwestern Germany on the banks of the Neckar River, near Stuttgart. In 2006 we began offering the short term exchange in hopes that the student will develop a love for another culture through this experience.

Applicants must be in 7th or 8th grade. Applications should be returned by November 8, 2024, and the selection of students, which will include a family interview, is usually completed in November. The Sheboygan students arrive in Esslingen during the third week of July and stay three weeks. Then German students will travel back to your home in August for three weeks.

American families selected for the exchange are expected to:

1. Provide the visiting student with his or her own bed—preferably in a separate room.
2. Spend time with their German student and include him/her in family social activities and show him/her places of interest in and around Wisconsin.
3. Participate in People to People activities and gatherings for exchange families.
4. Provide transportation for the student.
5. Provide parental supervision.
6. Share family meals together.
7. Meet the Esslingen student on arrival at airport and transport to airport for departure.
8. Join the People to People Sheboygan Chapter. (Annual membership: $35 family)
9. Exchange student and parents support the People to People Brat Fry by making baked goods and working the day of the event. This fund raising event financially supports the program.

Costs:

The cost of the program includes the round trip airfare, a $500 fee and the personal expenses of the Sheboygan students while in Germany. Plane ticket costs change from year to year. They normally range from $1100 to $1500 round trip. The expense of having another member in the family for three weeks is offset by the fact that there will be one less family member at home while your student is in Esslingen. The $500 fee helps to offset costs of day trips and the chaperone’s flight.

Other questions:

You may have other concerns about having an unknown person in your family for a time. If your student is selected to participate, the exchange committee will provide more information and suggestions. However, we know that you might want some of your questions answered before you decide to proceed! The advice that has worked for many others is to treat the student as you treat your son/daughter—it is just too difficult to have a guest for three weeks. An advantage to this program is that your student will be going to live in your German student’s home, so the exchange is really between families. The committee uses the application information to make the best matches possible.

The German students will arrive here with at least two years of English, so communication is not a big problem. You may have to speak a little slower at first and explain some slang. There is no need for anyone in your family to speak German for this program.

Also be aware of additional opportunities for a 3-month reciprocal exchange in High School or the option to host a German High School Student for 3 months.

**Additional information**

Send additional questions to: [ptpsheboygan@gmail.com](mailto:ptpsheboygan@gmail.com)

Middle School application form: <http://www.ptpsheboygan.org/middle-germany-1.html>

Information about People to People - Sheboygan Chapter - please check out the website: <http://www.ptpsheboygan.org/>

People to People Sheboygan facebook page (can also message here with questions)

<https://www.facebook.com/PTPSheboyganChapter>

Note: People to People also offers a 3-month reciprocal exchange in High School or the option to host a German High School Student for 3 months.

Information about Extended Stay Program for High School Students: <http://www.ptpsheboygan.org/high---germany.html>

