



ATTENTION ALL 7th GRADERS

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY --- A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE ITALIAN CULTURE...**

****Live with an Italian family, eat fresh pasta, visit famous museums, learn Italian and much, much more!

THE EVENT:

Aspen's Sister City, Abetone, Italy, will host up to 10 students and two teachers from Aspen for two weeks in October 2014. The students and teachers will stay with families from the region. The group will attend school, and cultural functions, go sightseeing, and shopping, and visit famous museums in Florence. Aspen will in turn host approximately the same number of students and two teachers from the Abetone area in January 2015 for 10-12 days.

THE COMMITMENT:

1. **Fund-raising & Family Participation:** Each student and his/her family will be expected to help with various fund-raising events throughout the summer and the following school year. Families will also need to attend all organizational meetings and be prepared to supervise activities in order to make this exchange a success. In essence, this program must be very high on the activity priority list.
1. **Study:** All students must agree to practice some Italian from a book over the summer and plan to attend cultural/language classes several times per week after school in the fall prior to traveling to Italy.
2. **Presentations:** Students will need to prepare speeches and slide shows to be given in Abetone and in Aspen upon their return.
3. **Hosting:** Each family will be required to host an Italian student in January 2015 for 10-12 days. This is a reciprocal exchange (families are paired for the entire program so students will stay in each other's houses)
4. **Money:** Every family should be prepared to pay up to \$2500 and of that money students need to earn, on their own, at least \$350 toward the trip to demonstrate their personal commitment. Scholarships are available, but requests must be made using a scholarship form and must then be submitted with the original application – please call Georgina Levey at 948-8629 if more information is necessary.
5. **Eligibility:** Students cannot receive a grade of a D or an F in any subject on a report card. Secondly, students who receive serious behavioral consequences (i.e. out-of-school suspension, expulsion, etc) or who make poor behavioral choices outside of school may be dismissed from the program at the discretion of school administrators.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

Note: Students will be chosen from the Aspen Middle School, the Aspen Country Day School and the Aspen Community School.

1. Complete the attached application form.
2. Write a short essay about the similarities and differences between Aspen and the country you want to visit (see application for more information).
3. Be available for an interview during the week of April 7-11, 2014.
4. **Submit your application to Maria Carbonetti at ACDS, Jolaine Pfeifer at AMS or Hilary Forsyth at ACS no later than Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 3:30 PM.**
5. Participants will be chosen mid- May. The first organizational meeting will be at the end of May.

If you have any questions please call Georgina Levey at 948-8629 or email her at zgnomad@hotmail.com.

Thank you for applying and good luck!

PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE FOR "IMPORTANT DATES."

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Thursday, February 27th: Meeting for all parents and students interested in learning more about the student exchange program. We will meet at 5:00 in the Aspen High School Seminar Room (2nd floor; far east side of building)
- Wednesday, April 2nd: All exchange applications are due to the contact designated for your school (either Maria Carbonetti, Jolaine Pfeifer or Hilary Forsyth).
- April 7-11: Interviews for chosen candidates. You will be given an interview time between 3:15 and 6:00 PM one of these days.
- By April 30 Decisions will be mailed home. This date could vary slightly
- Tuesday, May 20th First organizational meeting at 5:00 in the Aspen High School Seminar Room (far east side on 2nd floor of building). Attendance is **mandatory** for all participants and their parents.