

➤ Membership Application

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Membership Level _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please make check payable to:

Sister Cities of Columbia

208 S. Rapp St. P.O. Box 467

Columbia, IL 62236

Membership Levels and Dues:

Annual Single..... \$10

Annual Family..... \$20

Annual Organization..... \$50

Lifetime Single..... \$100

Lifetime Family..... \$200

Cut Here

➤ Exchange Visits

Since 1993, cultural exchange visits for adult members have taken place every two years in alternating cities. Also since 1993, student exchanges between Columbia High School and Gesamtschule Gedern have taken place annually in alternating cities.

To date, about 600 adults and 400 students have taken part in exchange visits – quite impressive given Columbia's population of about 10,000 and Gedern's population of about 7,500.

In 2013, we marked the 20th Anniversary of the Sister City partnership between Columbia, IL and Gedern, Germany with official delegation visits by adults and students, and 10 days of celebrations. Our organization was also named the Sister City of the Year for the State of Illinois.

For more information about us:

columbiasistercities.com

Follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/columbiasistercities](https://www.facebook.com/columbiasistercities)

Gedern's Sister City Website:

www.Verschwisterungsverein-gedern-columbia.de

(with English translation)

Sister Cities International:

sister-cities.org

Sister Cities of Columbia, Illinois



Creating Global Understanding
Between the Communities of
Columbia, Illinois and
Gedern, Germany

Sister Cities of Columbia was
named the Illinois Sister City
of the Year for 2013!

➤ **About Sister Cities**

The goal of the Sister Cities program is to make a significant contribution to global understanding. To achieve this goal, it is first necessary to bring about a sense of mutual interest and purpose among the world community through exchanges of people and cultures.

A sister cities program promotes understanding and friendship across boundaries of geography, language and culture.

➤ **The Columbia/Gedern Relationship**

While many sister city relationships have no historic connection, Columbia was fortunate to find a city in Germany with a strong connection to our area.

In 1842, the ship "Mimer" arrived in New Orleans from Wernings, a village in Germany with 118 adults and 38 children. The emigrants were 2 months to 89 years old. From New Orleans the passengers continued up the Mississippi to Chester, IL, then on to St. Louis by wagons. Almost all settled in the Columbia and Waterloo area. Today, only the ruins of a church and the house of the Count of Solms-Laubach remain of Wernings.

In 1990, communication was resumed between Columbia and the city of Gedern, which is near Wernings. In 1991, eleven Gedern representatives traveled to Columbia to explore the relationship. In 1992, a Columbia group made the trip to Gedern for an official signing ceremony of the Declaration of Friendship. In 1993, the signing of the Sister City proclamation took place in Columbia with a delegation from Gedern.

➤ **Membership**

Sister Cities of Columbia, IL provides a means to develop friendships with our counterparts on a personal and community level. It provides a means to explore our community's heritage as well as enrich our future through educational, cultural, sporting, and commercial exchanges.

Your dues provide the means to promote and foster the aims of the Sister Cities program. Membership allows you the potential to participate in all aspects of the organization from group dinners to planning committees to international exchange visits; your level of involvement is up to you. You will also receive quarterly newsletters, and don't even have to reside in Columbia to become a member!

➤ **Please join us to:**

- ❖ Meet and socialize with people from Gedern and fellow members of our organization
- ❖ Travel to Gedern and surrounding areas experiencing their community and culture on a personal basis
- ❖ Share your time, talent, and interest in an organization promoting international fellowship
- ❖ Learn about a variety of topics, places, and histories as well as the opportunity to learn and practice a foreign language
- ❖ Have fun and create lasting memories

"Sister Cities is weaving together the fabric of civilization, person-to-person, family-to-family, city-to-city, nation-to-nation."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
