



**The Amigo Club of Ashland, Oregon
Sister City of Guanajuato, México**

August 27, 2015

Mr. Karl Kemper, Athletic Director
Ashland High School
201 S. Mountain Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Dear Mr. Kemper,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Luis Pablo Dominguez Vazquez. He is 17 years old and will be attending Ashland High School for the school year, 2015-2016. Luis Pablo is from the Ashland's sister-city of Guanajuato, Mexico. We met him in Guanajuato while attending functions related to the Amigo Club of Ashland.

In our years of travel to Guanajuato, we have become friends with his parents who are restaurant owners in Guanajuato and this Fall they will be traveling to Ashland to prepare a world-class meal for the Amigo Club fundraiser, *Guanajuato Nights*. His Grandfather, Pedro Vazquez Nieto has twice traveled to Ashland as a guest of the Amigo Club and is an attorney and college professor at Guanajuato University.

Luis Pablo will be staying in our home for the school year as our exchange student/guest and we will be his host family. He has an interest in soccer and we would like to ask if he could be included in your soccer program. Please call me if you have any questions, 541-488-1840.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Haveman
Vice President
Amigo Club of Ashland

City of Ashland, Oregon / Administration / Ashland's Sister City

Ashland's Sister City

Ashland and Guanajuato

Sister Cities

History

- The sister city relationship between Ashland and Guanajuato was formally established in 1969. During the 1960s groups of students from Southern Oregon University (SOU) traveled to parts of Mexico, including Guanajuato during vacation. The students were unofficial representatives of Ashland.
- In the early 1970s Ashland and Guanajuato were given official recognition as Sister Cities through the internationally incorporated body, Sister Cities International.

Sister Cities International

- SCI is the world's largest citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between 1,100 U.S. and 1,770 foreign cities in 123 countries. SCI is a national, non-profit, volunteer membership organization of U.S. communities.
- SCI's goals are: to develop municipal partnerships between U.S. and foreign communities; to create opportunities for citizens to experience and explore other cultures; to create an atmosphere in which economic development and trade can be developed, implemented and strengthened; to stimulate environments through which municipal partnerships can creatively learn, work, and solve problems together.
- Sister City affiliations began shortly after WWII and developed into a national initiative when President Eisenhower proposed the people-to-people program. The intention was to involve people and organized groups at all levels of U.S. society in citizen diplomacy with the hope that people-to-people relationships, fostered through sister city affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts.

Similarities

- Both Ashland and Guanajuato are home to state universities.

- Both communities are home to world-class theatre, and are known as cultural centers in their respective regions both for performing and visual arts.
- Tourism plays a major role in the economies of both cities.
- Both cities have Amigo Clubs whose members are local citizens dedicated to strengthening the sister city ties.
- Both communities have streets dedicated to the other city.

Exchanges

- University students and faculty members share year-long exchanges, which has contributed to internationalize the two campuses.
- Representatives from Guanajuato travel to Ashland to participate in Ashland's 4th of July celebration each year, and representatives from Ashland travel to Guanajuato each year to participate in Guanajuato's Fiestas de San Juan y la Presa de la Olla.
- Ashland City staff has traveled to Guanajuato to present a workshop on the use of a computer software program for city planning; SOU staff have done the same for the University de Guanajuato.
- Guanajuato students have done practicum work through the City of Ashland.
- Ashland donated an ambulance and other fire and safety equipment to Guanajuato.

Benefits

- The relationship strengthens the bond between our cities and institutions of higher education.
- International diplomacy on a people-to-people basis facilitates international understanding on official and individual levels.

Celebration

- April 18 through April 23, 1999, representatives from Guanajuato visited Ashland for a week of meetings and entertainment to celebrate 30 years of Ashland and Guanajuato as sister cities.
- The 90 visitors represented areas of education, government, arts, Chamber of Commerce, students, fire and police, and the professional community.
- August 29 through September 3, 1999, representatives from Ashland traveled to Guanajuato for the same purpose, again representing all areas of the community.

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