



To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation, one individual, one community at a time.

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## SISTER CITIES AROUND THE WORLD IN 2020

### Japan, Ireland, Turkey - Here We Come!

**Morgan Hill, Calif., (Feb. 5, 2020)** – Sister Cities of Morgan Hill

([www.morganhillsistercities.com/](http://www.morganhillsistercities.com/)) is preparing for uniquely formatted treks to three of its five Sister Cities in 2020.

Middle school students will travel to Japan in July, coinciding with the Olympic Games and the Olympic Torch passing through the students' host city, Mizuho. Headford, Ireland, is excited to welcome visitors to *Headfest*, the City's annual arts, music, and sports festival scheduled for late May. Lastly, the community is invited to join us on a group tour through Turkey, focusing on vineyards, cities, and historical sites.

#### **Tour of Turkey Presented by Mission View Wines**

Mission View Wines ([missionviewwines.com/](http://missionviewwines.com/)) is currently developing a travelers' interest list of those who would like to explore Turkey on a guided, group tour between October 22 and November 3. If interested in more information and adding your name to an interest list, contact Emmie Turan by March 16 at 650-678-8237 or [emmie@missionviewwines.com](mailto:emmie@missionviewwines.com). Highlights include multiple days in Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Izmir, and Seferihisar, Morgan Hill's Turkish Sister City. There will be stops to wineries in Ankara, Cappadocia, and the Izmir region. Rates for travel depend on the number in the final tour group.

#### **Headfest in Ireland**

Just as exciting, but less formally organized is travel to the small town of Headford, Ireland, located in County Galway on the west coast. The town hosts an annual community festival that brings together local musicians, artists, families, and sports enthusiasts at a perfect time a year for weather and kicking off summer fun. Although small enough to be classified as a village, Headford's residents are big-hearted and fun-loving, committed volunteers who pull together as many as 27 events over the four day festival. Headfest 2020 is scheduled for the last weekend in May. For a full lineup and more details, search "Headfest" on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

#### **Mizuho Morgan Hill Student Exchange Program**

A cornerstone of the Sister Cities Morgan Hill activity is the Mizuho Morgan Hill Student Exchange Program (MMHSEP), which is a reciprocal, middle school student travel program that has operated since 2008. The program alternates between Morgan Hill students staying with host

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families in Mizuho, Japan, and then hosting those same Japanese students in Morgan Hill the following summer. The group is preparing to send already-selected Morgan Hill students between July 9th and 20th. The 2020 student exchange is significant because the summer Olympics are scheduled in Tokyo between July 24 and August 9, very near Mizuho. The Olympic torch is scheduled to pass close to Mizuho during the same timeframe of the student exchange. It presents an added, fantastic opportunity for Morgan Hill students to witness a world-wide event, in addition to the excellent cultural and educational opportunities already built into the exchange between Mizuho and Morgan Hill. The exchange organizers are preparing a number of fund raising opportunities to help students offset the high costs of the airline tickets, which are unusually high because of the Olympics.

For more information on how to support the MMHSEP or participate in a future program, contact [mizuhoexchangemh@gmail.com](mailto:mizuhoexchangemh@gmail.com) or visit [mmhsep.org/](http://mmhsep.org/).

### **About Sister Cities of Morgan Hill**

Sister Cities is an all-volunteer, membership nonprofit formed in 2002. It hosts relationships with five international cities: San Casciano, Italy; Seferihisar, Turkey; Mizuho, Japan; Headford, Ireland; and Ameca, Mexico. Morgan Hill's Sister City program is modeled on [Sister Cities International](#), a world-wide organization fostering connections between cities, counties, or states. Connections between cities are usually based on shared similarities that can expand into a more thorough cultural exchange. Most Sister Cities organizations are comprised of volunteers, with the support of their local, elected officials. Sister Cities of Morgan Hill is under the fiscal sponsorship of the [Morgan Hill Community Foundation](#).

If interested in learning more about Sister Cities in general, the group hosts member meetings every fourth Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center. Interested guests may attend a meeting or two before deciding to join.

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### **Media and San Casciano Cultural Exchange Contact:**

Amy Whelan  
[amywhelan7@gmail.com](mailto:amywhelan7@gmail.com)

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