

2026 Teach-in-China Program

Purpose

The **Thousand Miles Initiative** aims to promote intercultural exchange between American and Chinese students while providing a volunteer service platform for North Carolina high school students.

What We Do

We go to both mainland Chinese cities or remote mountain areas to teach Chinese students American culture, literature, science, music, sports, etc. Through our program, you can experience Chinese culture and food, increase your social skills, gain insight into a different cultural perspective, make lifelong friends, and more.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. " Thousand Miles Initiative serves as a platform for students to expand their horizons, increase self-confidence, improve themselves by helping others, and learn responsibility, leadership, and teamwork. At the same time, we hope that through the exchange activities between Chinese and American students, the mutual understanding and friendship between the youths of the two countries will be enhanced.

To learn more about the program, please visit: <https://www.thousandmile.org/>

Why You Should Apply

- Representing the city of Durham, the community and the country, this is a rare chance to teach abroad in China and make a difference! Such opportunities are not very common.
- Develop leadership, teamwork, social skills, etc.
- Develop lifelong friendships whether it be with your team or with the Chinese students
- Opportunity to win the **Mayor's Award**, an award to recognize high school students across the Triangle for their service to the community each summer.
- Learn about Chinese culture and the way Chinese students live.

Requirements to Apply

- Must be in grades 10 - 12
- Must live in RTP and be able to attend in-person trainings
- Good health condition
- Have enthusiasm!

Application

1. Fill out an application form with essay prompts:
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3vjyya>
2. Attend a mandatory information session
3. Undergo an interview



Scan the QR code to apply

Training

3~4 training sessions/meetings to practice teaching and work out logistics of the trip

Logistics

- Lodging: Live in the school dorm; the second option is hotels
- Program dates: June 15 - June 26, 2026
- Location and hosting school: a high school in Zhuzhou, Hunan
- Fees & Expenses: **Estimated total \$2800**
 - Registration (if accepted as a team member): \$250 (non-refundable)
 - International air tickets, passport, visa and domestic travel costs
 - Team costs for chaperones compensation, lodging, food, sightseeing, and miscellaneous expenses in China.
 - Actual costs may vary, and adjustments will be made for any overpayments or underpayments.

Contact

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Organized by:

Thousand Miles Initiative
Sister Cities of Durham

