

Hermosa Beach Sister City Association



Student Exchange Program

A Congressionally Recognized Organization



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

House of Representatives

THE HERMOSA BEACH SISTER CITY PROGRAM: 40 YEARS OF GOODWILL AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

Madam Speaker, to many, Hermosa Beach is a beautiful coastal community blessed by perfect weather, endless sun and surf. But few would know that it is home to one of the oldest and strongest international exchange programs in the United States.

It all started in 1967, when the Hermosa Beach City Council established a "Sister City" program with the citizens of Loreto, Mexico. Back then, Loreto was a small community on the pristine Baja coast of the Sea of Cortez – famous for sport fishing, whales, cave paintings and colonial missions. Its Spanish mission, founded in 1697, was the first in all of the California's.

Over the past 40 years, the Hermosa Beach Sister City Association (HBSCA) has provided funding and other support for educational and humanitarian programs for Loreto. Among the most notable is the middle school student exchange program. Every spring, Hermosa Beach 7th and 8th grade students travel to Loreto – and vice versa – where they gain language skills, opportunities to learn about a different

culture from host families and field trips, and lifetime memories.

The HBSCA also assists the people of Loreto with critical medical care. As recently as 1998, Loreto had no emergency medical treatment facilities. Through a partnership between physicians in Loreto and Hermosa Beach, the HBSCA has been able to provide badly needed medical training and equipment, including paramedic gear and even an ambulance.

Since its inception, Sister City programs have benefited both cities and their citizens. Loreto has become a home away from home for Hermosans, who have in turn helped improve the quality of life for Loretans. One of our nation's oldest sister city programs shines as a stellar example of the impact global exchange can have on our world.

I congratulate the citizens of Hermosa Beach and Loreto on achieving this impressive milestone.

Officers

- President: Liz Ramirez
- Past President: Debora Wright DeMaderios
- 1st Vice President: George Barks
- 2nd Vice President: Nicole Burke
- Treasurer: Merna Marshall
- Secretary:

History

- Founded 1967 – 51 years!
- 2 Major Programs:
 - Student Cultural Exchange
 - Paramedic Training
- Student Cultural Exchange program began 1974 – 45 years by Joe and Marie Diaz

Joe and Marie Diaz



Founders of the
Student
Exchange Program

Students

- Approximately 670 students have participated in the Cultural Exchange program
- Longest running exchange program
- age group (12 – 15)



Summer 2010

Loreto, BCS, Mexico

Distance:

~ 830 miles from
Los Angeles

Same distance as
Los Angeles to
Albuquerque, NM

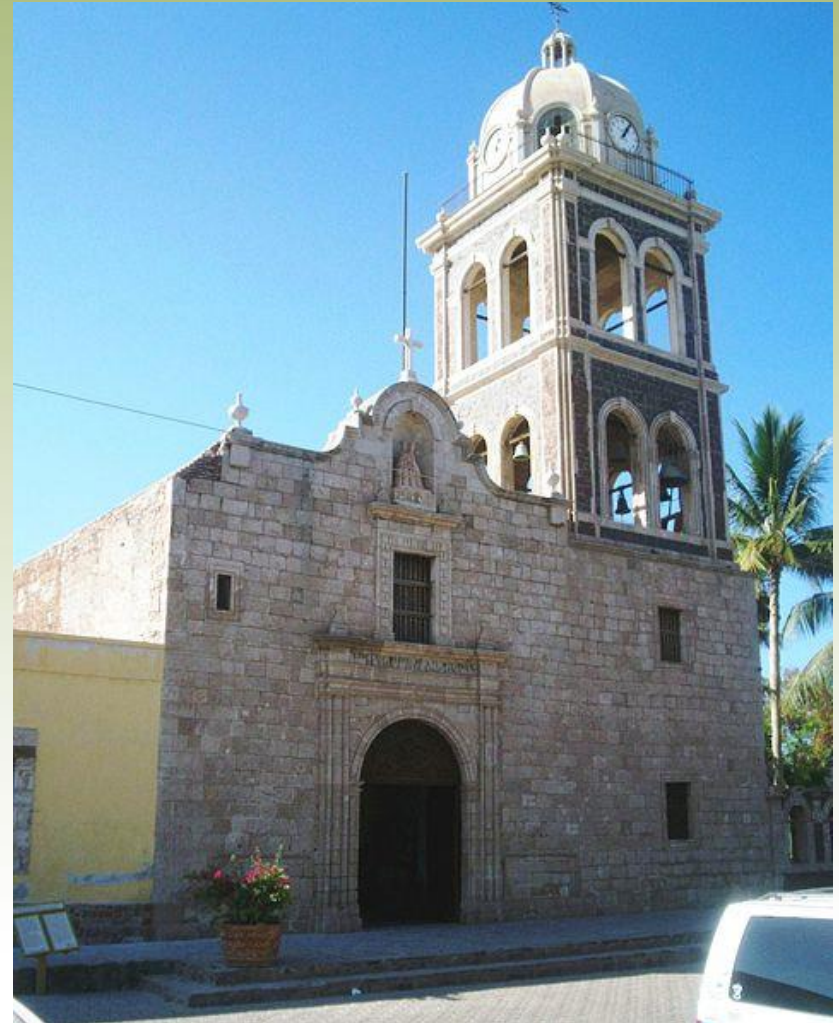


About Loreto

Located in the state of
Baja California Sur,
on the Sea of Cortez

First Spanish
settlement and Capitol
of the Californias

1st California Mission
is in Loreto



Loreto Statistics

Population:

Loreto – 15,000

Hermosa Beach – 19,000

Redondo Beach – 65,000

Manhattan Beach – 35,000

El Segundo – 16,000

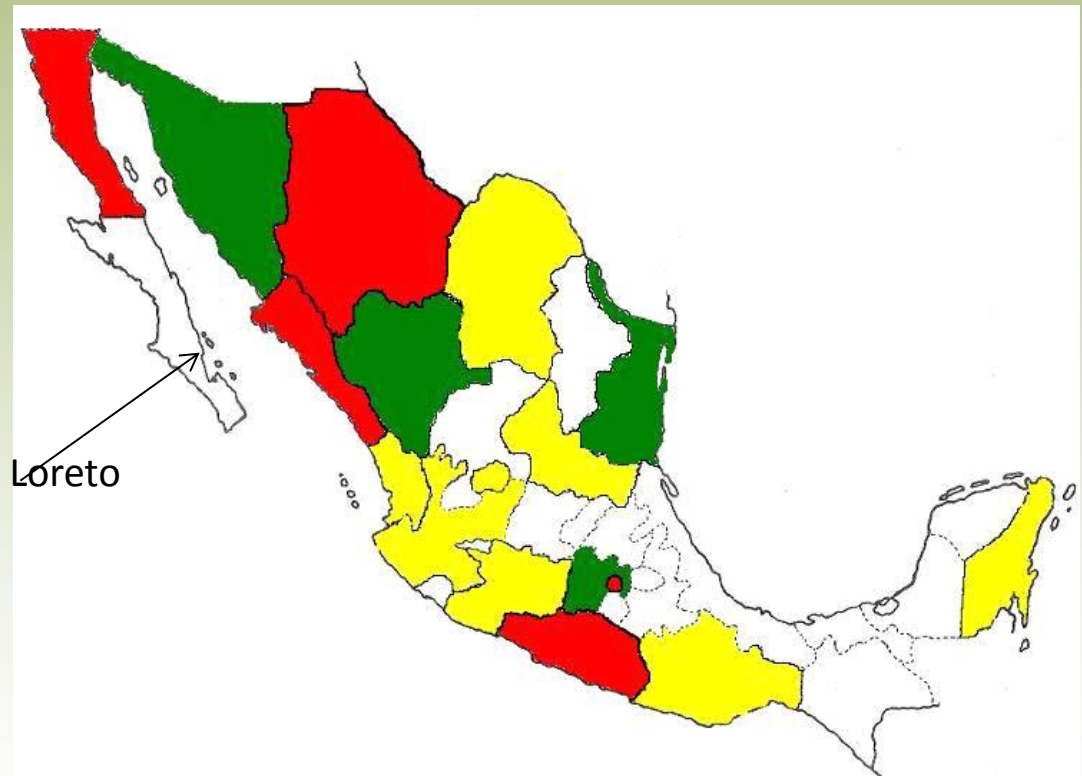
Torrance – 147,000

44 years and not a single safety or crime incident in Loreto involving this program

HB developed a Paramedic Training Program for Loreto

1999– Present

Only U.S. Trained Paramedics in all of Mexico



Details

- Who: 15 students (combination of HB, MB, RB, ES, Torr)
- When: Spring Break April 7 – 14, 2019
- Approximate Costs:
 - Airfare: \$395.00
 - Spending money \$50 to \$75
 - Fee to join HBSCA - \$25

Details

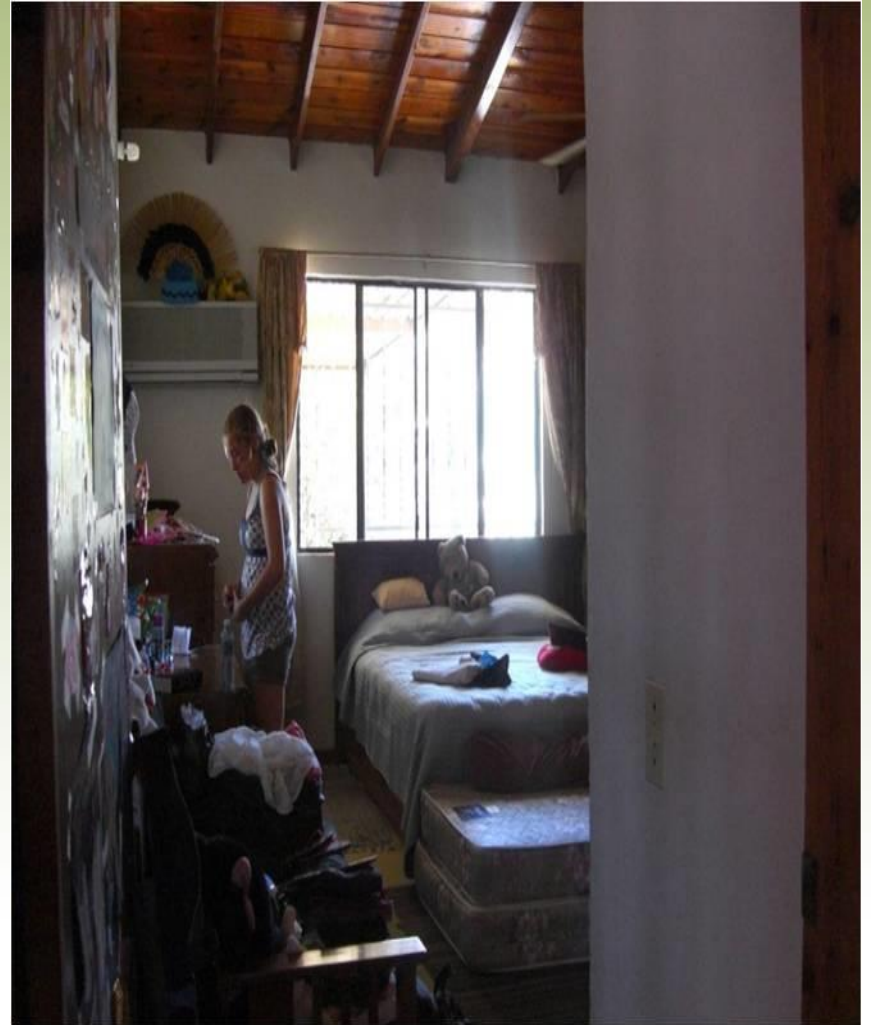
Students will be placed with similar-age and same sex Loreto student

Loreto students may or may not speak English

Parents are Parents:
Loreto hosts are just as dedicated to providing a positive experience – remember, their students will visit here for 7 days during summer, July, Exact dates pending Chaperones

U.S. : 3

Loreto: 3



Key Dates – 2018-2019

- **Sunday, Dec. 2 @ 2:00PM** – accept applications & Parent/Student Information Meeting, Hermosa Beach South Park, Rm. #4
- **Sunday, January 6 @ 2:00PM** – accept applications & Parent/Student Information Meeting, Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club
- **Sunday, Jan. 20** – applications close
- HBSCA Cultural Exchange committee interviews applicants and parent(s) Mon, Jan, 21, Tue Jan, 22, Wed Jan, 23, 6:00-9:00 PM,
- Hermosa Beach Community Center Room # 9
- Final selection of students published **Jan, 30**

Expectations - Students

- Learn to speak some Spanish (hello, thank you, please)
 - Become Pen Pals via email prior to going
 - Use Google Translator for communication (Spanish First!!!)
 - When Loreto “brother/ sister “ stays at US home:
 - include them in your daily activities. Don’t hide in your room, watch TV or play on the computer
- ... unless you are doing this together!

Expectations - Parents

- Agree to host your Loreto “son or daughter” for 1 week in July, 2019, 1 week date TBD
- Willingness to include him/her in your daily family life (food shopping, errands, cooking meals etc...)
- Help provide transportation to some planned activities
- Willingness to participate/chaperone a planned activity
- Help plan or host a “get together” at your home
- Help with welcome/farewell party (potluck contributions, set-up, clean-up)

In the USA, HBSCA will cover:

- Disneyland tickets for Loreto Students only and planned excursion costs for all students, including food
- Cost of student/parent “meet and greet”
- Cost of DJ at farewell party
- Cost of Photo Booth at farewell party

Estimated Costs For US Host Parents

- Loreto student's meals in your home
- Spending money for your child
- Several "pot-luck" meals
- Cost of refreshments for any "get-together" hosted at your home
- Estimated expenditure +/- \$200.00
- Disneyland Ticket for your child +/- \$125.00

Parents of Past Participants:

- Maria Ayala (310) 367-3652
- Victoria Tallman (951) 204-3602
- Julie Cortez (310) 993-0146
- Suzanne Meier (310) 433-2810
- Candy Cullen (310) 415-5238
- Tim Doiron (310) 721-5345

FAQ's

- Will Loreto students be on spring break while we are there?
- What if I get homesick?
- Can I drink the water there?
- Will I get to see the other US exchange students?
- What kinds of activities will I do in Mexico?
- Can I use US money in Mexico?

Questions?

