Dear Carl C.J. Gavin,

My name is Jeff Cuartas and I am writing today to share information with you about the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program - an exciting cultural exchange and fully funded scholarship opportunity for American high school students. I work for CIEE (The Council on International Educational Exchange) who administers CBYX on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. I believe that the type of student who does well on this program is the type who is also likely to be a Boy Scout. We’re looking for motivated, curious leaders who are interested in spending a year abroad. Germany also has a tradition in Scouting, so it’s even possible that they could get involved while in Germany or at the very least stay in touch with their troop here in the U.S. while also sharing a new and dynamic cultural perspective during their time.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) is a full scholarship exchange program that annually offers 250 young Americans the opportunity to live with a host family and attend high school in Germany for an academic year. CBYX is a fully-funded scholarship sponsored by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress.

The CBYX program is for motivated high school students who want to experience a different culture and learn a language through a full immersion experience. Academic merit, as well as motivation, curiosity and flexibility are key components to a competitive application. Previous German language experience is not required. Participants become fluent in German, earn a competitive edge in college applications and can connect with a global network of other State Department program alumni upon completion from the program. This is also an excellent gap year program for those between high school and college!

Students who are U.S. Citizens born between February 1, 2001 and August 1, 2004 with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to apply. CIEE administers the program to students in AZ, CO, FL, GA, KS, KY, MN, NE, NC, NM, OH, OK, SC, TX, UT, VA, WV, WY, DC and Puerto Rico. Please find a “Quick Facts” sheet that provides additional information about the CBYX program. You can also visit the ECA website or www.ciee.org/cbyx for more information. The online application can be found at www.usagermanyscholarship.org. I’m happy to send you an email template to share with your council if that is helpful.

We’re hoping that you might be willing to spread the word to older boys in your council. I am also happy to answer any questions you or they may have!

All the best,

Jeff

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