



Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange

Celebrating 14 years of Unforgettable Experiences

2012

Information

Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange

Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange (DVSE) is a self-supporting, non-profit organization that promotes a cultural and sports exchange between **Duluth, Minnesota** and **Växjö, Sweden**. Cultural exchange is the primary goal, competitive soccer is the medium.

Each summer Duluth or Växjö hosts an annual soccer tournament. Players from each country are matched with a visiting player. The visiting player lives with the family of his or her counterpart during the exchange. Swedish players are from Växjö and the nearby towns in Småland (the name of the area surrounding Växjö). These towns include: Lammhult, Braas, Ingelstad and Rottne.

DVSE and Växjö each field four teams, U-15 and U-16 boys and girls. Players are selected from from Duluth and surrounding communities. We have had players from Duluth, Cloquet, Esko, Hermantown, Proctor, Superior and Two Harbors. Competitive teams from the region are invited to participate in the tournament during our host year. There are a maximum of 16 players per team, each with competitive soccer experience. Practices are organized by each team's volunteer coaching staff and are arranged to work around player's summer schedules. Every attempt is made to not conflict with summer tournaments, high school tryouts and or games. Participation is flexible, but a commitment is required.

2012 is a Host Year

Total cost including player fee*, warm-up and uniform** is currently estimated at \$350

* Annual player fee of \$175 includes:

- 2 commemorative T-shirts
- All registration fees
- Player liability Insurance
- 2 Tickets to the Farewell Banquet

**Uniform - Warm-up

Approx \$175

One time fee during 1st year. Uniforms and Warm-ups are the player's property and responsibility.

If lost or damaged, must be replaced for the 2nd year.

In addition, host families are responsible for all food, entertainment and other incidental costs incurred on behalf of their Swedish guests during their stay.

Player Eligibility and Family Responsibilities

We are inviting male and female players who will be 15 or 16 years of age next summer (2012) to apply. If a player is age eligible and participated in the program in 2011, he or she is considered a 'legacy' player and is accepted upon receipt of the completed player application and fees. The exception is age eligible players who have enjoyed two years in the program. Those players will be given consideration should our recruitment efforts fall short.

*** All fees must be current before any player will be considered for registration.

We also give priority to players from 'legacy families', families with siblings who are past participants.

Although the cultural exchange is our primary focus, it's important that players have competitive soccer experience. The Swedes and other teams in the exchange play at a level that necessitates skills and understanding of the game. We may request require a player card from a competitive, recreational, or high school team or a signed note from your coach confirming your experience.

All families who have players participating in the exchange will be **REQUIRED** to participate on a committee. For U15 players who are new to the program, you and your family need to be able to fulfill hosting and volunteering responsibilities for 2012 and a player commitment to travel in 2013. A list of committees and hosting duties/tips will be provided by the DVSE Board for 2012.

Your family needs to be able to fulfill hosting responsibilities. These include dropping off and picking up players at official DVSE events, feeding and housing them, planning activities that help them understand our culture, allowing them to communicate home if they wish, and working with other host families so they can mingle with their friends during the exchange. Although it is not required, it is recommended that one parent be vacationing during the exchange.

Time-lines for team sign-up.

July 24, 2011: E-mails sent out to Legacy Families

August 21, 2011: Attend 1st General Meeting 7-8 PM at a location to be determined.

Applications and player fees will have an initial deadline of August 15th. ALL applications and player fees must be postmarked and received at the DVSE mailbox. Applications will be opened on or about August 17th. Legacy players (players who have had sibling(s) previously in the program) will be given priority up to August 15th. Maximum roster is 16. If more than 16 applications per team are received, a lottery will be held for non-legacy players.

If the teams are not filled by August 15th completed applications and players fees will be accepted on a first-postmarked, first-in basis.

Player fees and deposits (travel year only) for all applicants not selected, will be returned.

Please complete all forms included in this communication and send to DVSE:

- Player application form (player profiles will be collected at a later date)
- Write one check for \$175** to: DVSE:
- Send to:

DVSE

23 West Central Entrance, #329

Duluth, MN 55811

**This check covers the registration or "annual player fee".

Travel to Sweden in 2013

The Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange is a two-year program. A 15-year-old player next summer will travel to Sweden as a 16-year-old player in 2013.

Approximate costs for the travel year:

- Air Travel \$1300 - \$ 1500
- Travel Deposit \$100 (refundable)
- Ground Travel approximately \$100 (transportation to and from Minneapolis/St. Paul and to and from Växjö from Copenhagen)
- Passport \$105 for 15 and under, \$135 for 16 and over. The passport for players 15 and under is good for five years. All others are valid for ten years.
- Annual Player Fee \$175 (subject to change each year)
- Player Warm-up and uniform estimated at \$175 (a returning player from 2012 will use their same uniform and warm-up)
- Spending Money (we recommend no less than \$300)

Total out of pocket when Travel Deposit is returned - \$1850 to \$2100 -Plus Spending Money

We **highly** recommend you take advantage of the many fundraisers sponsored by DVSE to offset the cost of travel. The sooner you register, the greater the opportunity to participate in fundraising.

Meeting Schedule

DVSE holds its General Meetings for parents and players meetings. All meeting dates will be posted on www.sistercitysoccer.org.

General Meetings scheduled most likely 3rd Sunday of the month:

Sunday, August 21 - Lyric Conference Center - Holiday Inn, Downtown Duluth

Sunday, September 18

**Scheduled dates for future monthly General Meetings and other meetings/activities including fundraisers and committee meetings will be announced and posted on website.