

**The Duke of Edinburgh's
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DECLARATION OF CONSENT BUDDY AWARD PROGRAM

Berlin, _____

I hereby give my consent that my/our child

_____ may participate in the Buddy Award Program.

My child will meet online with a Duke of Edinburgh's International Award participant from the Czech Republic for approximately one hour/week to work on common tasks and develop an understanding of each other's culture.

Participants are responsible for choosing how they communicate with each other and which digital platforms they use. I am informed that as a parent or guardian I am responsible for ensuring that the platforms and apps used are carefully selected.

I also hereby give my consent for the publication of any pictures, videos and works of my child taken as part of the project or those in which my child can be seen.

First and last name of legal guardian(s)

Signature of legal guardian(s)

My child's school:

Dear Parents,

For the new school year, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is starting in Germany with a pilot project that we successfully submitted to the German-Czech Future Fund under the title: "**German-Czech Cultural and Language Exchange as Digital Friendship. The Duke Award programme as a common path**". The short name of the project is "Buddy Program".

What is at issue?

We want to give German and Czech young people from participating Award schools the opportunity to strengthen their intercultural skills, broaden their horizons and gain new knowledge and experience. From a total of five Czech and five German schools, 2-8 students each can participate in the project. All participants from Germany will be networked with one participant from the Czech Republic as "buddies".

The project starts in November and is scheduled for 3-6 months. The participants will meet online at least 13 times, in addition they can also work separately on their joint projects and create videos, photo collages, etc., this depends on the agreement of the buddy pairs. All participants document their activities weekly on the Online Record Book. The project can be credited as talent or service.

A Czech group will travel to Berlin in spring for an exchange and will carry out a joint expedition with a German group. All other participants will only meet virtually and get to know each other. Private appointments to visit each other are of course possible and welcome!

How does the project work?

In November, all participants receive an email with general information and small tasks that they should complete and document with their Czech buddy during the project. We leave the order of the tasks to the individual buddy pairs. Examples of the tasks are:

- √ **My city/your city** - Create a short film about your city
- √ **Becoming a chef** - cooking a traditional dish from each other's country and creating a contribution to a shared recipe book, which will be made available to all at the end of the project.
- √ **Sing along** - learn a popular children's song from each other's countries and make a video of the two of you singing it together.
- √ **Where is the oldest building?** - presents the oldest building in your city
- √ **Way up high** - take a photo of yourself at the highest point of your city
- √ **Become an artist** - create a portrait of your buddy partner, e.g. a painting using acrylic, wax, oil, pastel, a collage, etc.
- √ **Holidays** - present in your own way a special holiday of your country
- √ **Know a poet** - learn a well-known poem from the other country by heart
- √ **Insta & Co** - design a cool post with your buddy partner for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Instagram page.

There will be 2-3 virtual meetings of all buddies together. In consultation with the schools, the students report on their experiences at internal school events or write a report for the school newspaper and publish an article on the school's social media. We want to take away the fear of young people to face challenges and encourage them to gain new experiences. The cross-border project will create friendships and school partnerships from which Czech-German relations will live on for a long time and from which new joint projects can emerge.

Throughout the project, a project coordinator, Ilyas Zivana, will be available to the young people as a contact person and interpreter.

How can your child participate?

Registration is open until November 11 and can be done via the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrO0t6LrHeRnni7VInFJguz-hzIhuHpJmO3yQPM-OnAtcyw/viewform>

Interested youth register online and email the parent-signed consent form to ilyas.zivana@gmail.com.

Based on the registration form we will choose a suitable buddy partner on the Czech side. All participants will be informed by email who will be their buddy partner and contact him/her. All participants will receive a certificate of participation upon completion of the project.

We believe that this project is a great opportunity for Duke participants to learn something new, meet new people and act as cultural ambassadors. In the future, we would like to expand the cooperation between Czech and German schools for joint expeditions, etc.

Do not hesitate to contact your child's Award Leader or our club if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Masing
Executive Board
The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Germany e.V.
Vanessa.masing@duke-award.de