

HEFNER INITIATIVE – OSSM AWARD 2020

The Hefner Initiative aims to help build a close and positive relationship between China and the USA. The Hefner Initiative is an approximate 12-day summer program (June/July) which sponsors high school Junior students in America to travel abroad to China. The Robert & MeiLi Hefner Foundation believes this opportunity will not only enhance the China/US relationship in the future but also expand the knowledge and exposure of these young students to a rising and important sector of the world.

The application window for OSSM juniors opens on December 2, 2019. OSSM will announce the program to its Junior class by email and on the school website.

The last day for entry submissions by OSSM students will be January 13, 2020.

Turn in complete application packets to Ms. Bonnett at the OSSM President's Office no later than 5:00 pm.

The school's faculty Committee will select the top four OSSM entries, submitting them to the Hefner Foundation by January 30, 2020 for review. In turn the Robert & MeiLi Hefner Foundation will select two of the four finalists to be OSSM's 2020 Hefner Awardees.

For 2020 Hefner Initiative - Criteria and Requirements

(bolded items below constitute student's Application Packet)

- Junior Class high school student from OSSM
- United States Citizenship (Hefner Foundation will confirm if selected)
- United States Passport with one-year validity at time of travel (Hefner Foundation will confirm if selected)
- Visa is the responsibility of the participant (Hefner Fnd will provide instruction if selected)
- **Applicant's Cover Letter** including one paragraph on the Hefner Initiative and its mission
- **Applicant's Resume** listing solid performance at OSSM (academic & volunteerism)
- Official School Transcript, ACT or SAT Scores (OSSM will provide)
- **Essay #1** on the applicant's view in regard to USA/ China/ Asia relations (minimum of 750 words)
- **Essay #2** on the history of the destination cities of the program (Beijing, Suzhou) (minimum of 750 words)
- **Waiver release form signed by the participant and parent(s) or guardian(s)**
- Post-trip essay, with photographs/videos submitted within two weeks upon return, describing their experience and how the participant regards the importance of USA/ China/ Asia relations after visiting
- Give a slide show presentation to their school, their community, and at various associations sharing their experience