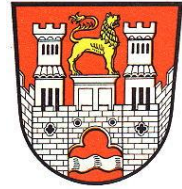




**Partner Cities:**  
City of Keene, New Hampshire, USA  
City of Einbeck, Niedersachsen, Germany



## **Overview**

Established in 2003, the City of Keene Partner City Committee serves as an advisory group to promote the educational, cultural, athletic, business, and intergovernmental cooperation between Keene, New Hampshire and Einbeck, Germany. Historical exchanges include youth soccer teams, high school students, choral group members, medical professionals, committee delegates, law enforcement and firefighting personnel and other City leaders. Through these exchanges, lifestyle similarities are explored, local culture is experienced, insight is shared, mutual understanding is nurtured and lifelong bonds are created between youth, adults and families in both cities. All of the travel between countries and the expenses of daily living are assumed by those who make the trip. The cost of hosting students and delegates (bus transportation, official welcoming events, lodging, etc.) are paid for by the partner city committees.

## **History of the Keene / Einbeck Partner City Committee**

The idea of becoming a "Partner City" was first entertained by Mayor Patricia T. Russell, who had conversations with leaders from Schleicher and Schuell, a Keene business with corporate headquarters in Einbeck, Germany. This company was an important part of our local economy and was headquartered in Einbeck. Although they later closed their plant in Keene, the relationship between the two communities continued.

In 2000, Mayor Michael Blastos formed a volunteer committee to investigate the possibility of Keene aligning itself with a city from another country. From this effort a partnership with Einbeck, Germany was unofficially launched. Students from Keene and Einbeck crossed the ocean, most for the first time, to play soccer and live with host families in a foreign country. An official partnership was signed by the mayors of both cities in 2002.

The first soccer exchange between athletes from Keene and Einbeck began during the summer 2003. Since then, official delegations from both cities have had numerous opportunities to visit and learn from one another. Students, athletes, choral groups, law enforcement officers, public works leaders, educators, musicians, fire fighters, physicians, business people and political leaders have traveled across the ocean and formed bonds of friendship and partnership that now go beyond official exchanges.