

## Skien | Minot Sister City Agreement

1. **Contracting Parties:** The parties to this agreement are:
  - a. Skien commune (the City of Skien) on the Norwegian side (referred to below as “Skien”)

and
- b. The City of Minot, Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC), Minot Public Schools (MPS), Minot State University (MSU), and Norsk Høstfest (NH) on the American side (collectively referred to below as “Minot” unless otherwise specified).

All parties are separately and mutually responsible for living up to the spirit of the agreement.

### 2. Basis for Agreement

The cities of Minot, North Dakota, and Skien, Norway, have a shared cultural heritage based on ancestral ties and the size and character of the cities. The two cities have therefore had a sister city arrangement in place for many years. The Sister City Resolution No. 3515, adopted by Minot City Council on October 3, 2016, forms part of the basis for this agreement. Likewise, the executive committee of Skien City Council agreed at its meeting on December 6, 2016, as agenda item No. 128, to draw up a cooperation agreement with Minot. This agreement was renewed on October 1, 2017, for a five-year period, until October 1, 2022.

### 3. Objective of Agreement

Skien and Minot wish to continue to enjoy a good, close working relationship based on shared cultural heritage, human relationships, and shared community interests and needs. This is to be achieved by maintaining and strengthening existing connections and activities, as set out in section 4 below.

### 4. Scope and Limits of Agreement

Skien and Minot wish:

- a. To establish connections and programs for student exchanges and education, at both high school and university level. In this regard, we refer also to existing agreements between MSU and Høgskolen i Sørøst (the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN)—especially the USN- Bø campus located in Telemark county near Skien, and between MPS and Sørve videregående skole (upper secondary school).
  - i. Skien wishes especially to obtain insights and know-how from the public schools in Minot regarding their educational methods and their programs for teaching reading, arithmetic and mathematics.
- b. To develop mutually beneficial relationships between their business communities.

- c. To promote cultural exchanges, especially those involving not-for-profit organizations and the private sector, and by participating in Norsk Høstfest.

In specific areas, separate agreements may be entered into as required, supplementing this sister city agreement.

**5. Duties and Responsibilities of the Parties**

- a. Under this agreement, Skien and Minot undertake to reciprocally market and promote each other's activities and qualities.
- b. Each of the parties will appoint one dedicated liaison officer for Minot-Skien cooperation. The liaison officers will serve as an administrative link, relaying information on matters and issues of mutual interest, and helping to prepare and conduct joint activities. Minot and Skien must notify each other immediately of any change of liaison officer.

**6. Finance**

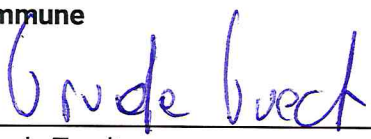
The parties have agreed that the cost of sister city activities will be kept at a reasonable level.

**7. Duration of Agreement**


This agreement is effective from September 26, 2022 until September 26, 2023.

Skien | Minot | September 26, 2022


**Skien kommune**

Signed   
Trude Tvedt  
Skien City Council, City Board

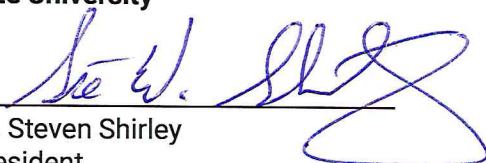
**Minot Public Schools**

Signed   
Dr. Mark Vollmer  
Superintendent

**City of Minot**

Signed   
Mayor Tom Ross

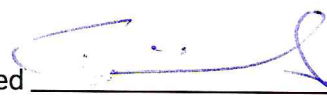
**Minot State University**

Signed   
Dr. Steven Shirley  
President

**Minot Area Chamber EDC**

Signed   
Brekka Kramer  
President | CEO

**Norsk Høstfest**

Signed   
Tim Mihalick  
President

Attached: Exhibit 1| Agreement for Business Development

### Exhibit 1 | Agreement for Business Development

**1. The Parties to this Agreement are:**

- a. Skien kommune (the City of Skien)
  - b. The City of Minot
  - c. Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC)
- All referred to below as parties.

**2. The Parties agree that they all will work for:**

- a. Facilitating businesses in the USA and Norway to have the best possible support for business development in both countries.
- b. Making available their networks and connections in public and private sector to promote business development and to assist individual companies.
- c. Supporting each other's parties by communicating business and public sector in both cities and counties/states.
- d. Supporting and working for tourism development in both countries.

**3. Other contracting Parties:**

The parties may also cooperate with other businesses and corporations (private and public) with similar purpose as written in Section 2 above.

**4. Finance**

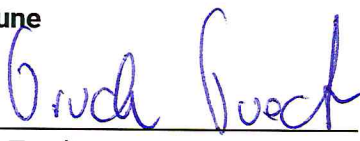
The parties agree that this agreement does not include financial support to individual companies. Each party covers its own costs.

**5. Liaison Officers**

Each of the parties will appoint one dedicated liaison officer who is responsible for ongoing works, as set out in section 5a in the Skien | Minot Sister City Agreement.

Skien | Minot | September 26, 2022


**Skien kommune**

Signed   
Trude Tvedt  
Skien City Council, City Board

**Minot Area Chamber EDC**

Signed   
Brekka Kramer  
President | CEO

**City of Minot**

Signed   
Mayor Tom Ross