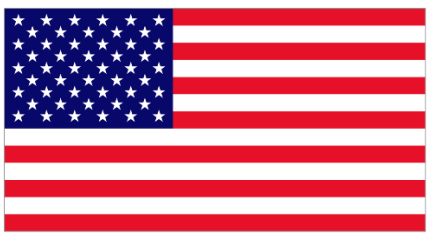
POLISH AMERICAN News

December 2019 / January 2020

Poland and Visa Waiver Program



Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan, in coordination with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, designated Poland into the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Starting Nov. 11, 2019, citizens and nationals of Poland will be able to apply to travel to the United States for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days without obtaining a U.S. visa.

"The inclusion of Poland into the Visa Waiver Program is a testament to the special relationship that exists between our two countries, and the ongoing friendship and close cooperation on our joint security priorities," said Acting Secretary McAleenan. "We look forward to continuing to work with the Polish government as we deepen our security cooperation as well as make travel easier for our citizens."

The Visa Waiver Program is a comprehensive security partnership between the United States and a designated country that meets several requirements related to counterterrorism, law enforcement, immigration enforcement, document security, and border management. The primary goal of the program is to encourage travel while increasing security.

Under the Visa Waiver Program, citizens and nationals of Poland will be able to apply online for authorization to travel to the United States through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). These authorizations are valid for two years.

Travelers with B1/B2 visas should continue to use their visa for travel to the United States. While DHS will begin accepting applications on Nov. 11, the department reminds first-time ESTA applicants that it may take up to 72 hours for processing.

Visa-free travelers must have passports with embedded computer chips, and must obtain an ESTA, which currently costs $14 and is valid for up to two years for multiple trips to the United States. Travelers should only use the official ESTA website at https://esta.cbp. dhs.gov, and are encouraged to apply for ESTA at least 72 hours before the planned trip.

Polish citizens wishing to travel in the United States for longer than 90 days, or who wish to engage in activities requiring other visa categories (e.g., to work or to study in the United States) will still need to apply for the appropriate category of visa. Polish citizens who are denied ESTA will also need to apply for a visa.

Complete details on the Visa Waiver Program (including ESTA) are available on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's ESTA website at https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov, and the State Department's travel website at http://travel.state.gov.

View the rebroadcast of the
2019 Pulaski Day Parade
on the front page of
PolishAmericanCenter.com
(Pulaski Parade link)

A Lot of People Work Together to Promote Polonia

In this newspaper there are announcements from Polish American organizations, articles that celebrate Polish customs, historic reflections, information from Polish American Social Services and the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, as well as other efforts that promote the positive ways we work together to promote Polish and Polish American heritage.

Kindly help us spread the word about the information listed in the ***Polish American News,*** and invite others to read the newspaper online at: **PolishAmericanNews.com** or from the link on the front page of: **PolishAmericanCenter.com.**

Polish American Cultural Center

308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-1700

When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District Visit The

Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall
308 Walnut Street
Featuring Polish History and Culture
Open 10 AM to 4 PM
FREE ADMISSION

January through April
Monday to Friday

May through December
Monday to Saturday

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Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

Internet at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**

Museum Exhibit Hall Schedule

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December 21, 2019 through April 25, 2020
Monday through Friday 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Reopens on Saturdays beginning with the first weekend of May

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Greetings to Polonia
from the
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