



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Host Selection Packet

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Questions for Hosts

Before accepting hosts, the host coordinator should know about the accommodations and the host's current ability to relate appropriately to the guest ambassador.

1. What are your reasons for being a host?
2. What do you think makes a good host?
3. It is possible that your guest will speak or understand very little of your language. How do you plan to communicate in this situation?
4. How do you view people who have different traditions from your own in such areas as dress, behavior, attitudes, foods, even a different standard of cleanliness in their homes?
5. You might be assigned someone of a different race, religion, political ideology, or socio-economic level. How would you react to this?
6. How will you prepare for your Friendship Force experience?

Discussing the Host Agreement, Pledge and Being a Good Host (all below) with the potential host is highly recommended. You can also follow up with the applicant, if you are going to select them to participate on your journey by emailing them, and pasting these into your email, reminding them that this is what they are agreeing to, or handing them a hard copy once they are approved.

Host Agreement

The undersigned Applicant (on behalf of all members of the household, collectively called "I") agrees to participate in a citizens' program by serving as a host for an international visitor or visitors. I recognize that the program was arranged by Friendship Force International which includes its directors, officers, and employees, as well as its volunteers. I also recognize that there are certain risks of having people visit me and stay in my home, and I am willing to assume and bear these risks in order to meet and share experiences with someone from another country.

Therefore, in consideration of my selection by Friendship Force International as a Friendship Force Host for this journey I do hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless Friendship Force International from all claims, actions, and causes of action based upon or by reason of any loss, damage or injury to any person or property of any member of the household, arising out of, or in any manner connected with, any aspect of the program. As a host, I shall:

- a) willingly accept in my home people who may be of another race or religious preference, who may not speak my language, and with whom I am unfamiliar.
- b) provide room and board for a visiting Ambassador for the specified days and nights
- c) involve this ambassador in the daily activities of my family
- d) participate in all official functions that are planned for hosts during the journey
- e) attend training workshops and an interview, if requested
- f) accept that the journey is a public event and that the photograph and name of the Host may be used by the local and national media and Friendship Force International in its publications.

Host Pledge: I agree to be an ambassador of goodwill to the visitors I am hosting, knowing that the customs and language of those visitors may be different from my own. The purpose of this journey is to extend friendship to the citizens of another country.

Being a good host

The Friendship Force host also takes on three roles: host, cultural ambassador and guide.

1. **Host:** The host provides home hospitality to the visiting ambassador(s) for up to one week, offering what is natural for them and their culture in the way of food and activities in the home and community. Each guest should be provided private sleeping quarters, but it is fine for guests to share bath and toilet facilities with members of the host family. The time spent in the home is used to establish a close personal friendship between the host and guests. This can be done without host and guest sharing the same language—but it helps to have someone available who does speak the ambassador’s language. At all times the host should be respectful of the culture of the ambassador. While the host may choose to invite the guest to participate in religious observances, these should always be optional. Meals in the home are the responsibility of the host, but the ambassador should be expected to pay for meals and activities outside the home. It is also customary for the ambassador to invite the host to dinner one night or to offer to prepare a meal in the home. The host should accept these offers as they help ensure the establishment of a mutual and balanced relationship. A good host also recognizes the visitors’ need for rest! After a long international trip or a busy day sightseeing, the visitor may need some time to rest and catch their breath, before another busy day.
2. **Ambassador:** Although the Friendship Force assigns the title “ambassador” to the visitor, in many respects the hosts are also ambassadors, representing their communities and cultures. The host should see this as an important and enjoyable aspect of serving as a Friendship Force host. As hosts get to know the visitors, they should look for ways to share their culture—through ordinary experiences in the home and through activities in the community that can help the visiting ambassador better understand the host culture. Hosts should also introduce their visitors to others in the community, finding opportunities for family and friends outside the home to meet the visiting ambassadors.
3. **Guide:** The visiting ambassadors are provided some formal cultural tours as part of the overall journey. They also may be traveling in the region separate from their Friendship Force experience. Even so, the host has a great opportunity to serve as a local guide, providing the visitor with insights into the local community and culture that normal tourists never see. To see a new community through the eyes of the local host rather than from the window of a tour bus is part of what attracts people to a Friendship Force journey. On days when no formal activities are planned, the host can take the visitors into the community, sharing places of mutual interest. In some cases ambassadors may want to explore the community on their own. Hosts should recognize that this is part of the thrill of experiencing a new community. If ambassadors want to have time on their own, the hosts can arrange the best way for carrying out this goal.



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Who We Are

Friendship Force International (FFI) provides opportunities to explore new countries and cultures from the inside by bringing people together at the personal level. Through the signature program of home hospitality, local hosts welcome international visitors into their culture, sharing with them meals, conversation, and the best sights and experiences of their region.

In a typical Friendship Force program, a local club (chapter) prepares an itinerary of cultural activities, inviting members from clubs in other countries to come and stay with them in their homes for up to a week. Friendship Force International conducts over 300 programs every year, in 377 communities in 56 countries.

Mission

To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people

Values

Mutual Respect • Cultural Diversity • Cultural Exploration • Service

Vision

Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill.

The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations.

By connecting the world, one friend at a time, we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.

Slogan

Changing the Way You See the World

Tagline

Explore • Understand • Serve

Explore: We explore new countries and regions. We explore new cultures and new ways to connect across the barriers that separate us.

Understand: By sharing a home, meals, conversation and everyday experiences, people become friends, seeing beyond governments and borders into the heart of a country and its people. By combining home hospitality with cultural exploration, we reach a new level of understanding.

Serve: Exploration leads to understanding. Understanding leads to an acceptance of our common humanity and the desire to serve our global village—with words and actions.

Developing a Successful Recruiting Strategy

Your recruiting goal is to solicit enough applications so that you can have a full journey with excellent hosts. If you have done a good job in planning the journey, this should be an achievable objective. Participating in a journey entails a major commitment of time and money for hosts.

Armed with an excellent itinerary and an enthusiastic attitude, where will you find prospective hosts? Consider the first three separate target populations below for hosts:

Your fellow club members

You should start publicizing the journey in your club's newsletter and on the website as soon as your journey is confirmed. Make sure, however, that you let your members know the type of journey you are planning and the degree to which it will be physically challenging. Be sure the members of your club understand that they are applying as hosts. They are not simply signing up on a first come first serve basis.

The broader community

It is equally important to look to the larger community to recruit new participants. One of the best ways to do so is to see your journeys as an excellent way to enlist new people from the community. There are many other ways to get the word out: local newspapers, radio announcements, speaking to civic organizations, placing flyers at local libraries, or seeking support from a local university professor.

Your friends and colleagues

Do not forget to invite friends, family and professional colleagues to consider joining you on the journey.

Host Matching Process

As you begin matching your ambassadors and hosts, here are some helpful suggestions:

Pay particular attention to age and activity level so that both hosts and ambassadors can enjoy comparable activities.

Thoroughly review the list of ambassadors when you receive it from your counterpart. Check interests, hobbies, occupations, age and gender to match with a host.

Organize one or two workshops where the culture of the ambassadors and activities scheduled will be discussed. The workshops provide an opportunity for experienced hosts to share their experiences with those who are new.

Pay special attention to ambassadors who smoke, have pet issues or that have allergies, special food needs or disabilities. It is important that prospective hosts are aware of any special requirements and are able to accommodate them.

Make note of pets and/or smokers in host families to ensure allergic ambassadors are not matched with them.

Check the number of bedrooms and type of bed in each host home. Both will influence the matching process. Look over the paperwork to see if certain ambassadors want to be hosted in the same household.

Find out early which home hosts require a day host because of work or other commitments so an adequate number can be recruited.

It is a good idea to have hosts in reserve in case of an emergency.

Provide each host (both home and day) the name, address, phone and email of their ambassador as early as possible to allow for a letter of welcome and a chance for both guest and host to develop an acquaintance.

Day hosts should make arrangements regarding the ambassadors directly with the home hosts.

Free days should be included as part of the program so that hosts can tailor activities to their specific ambassadors. See page 47.

Explain to hosts that the ambassadors should invite them out or cook for them one evening meal during the week. Confirm this tradition with the ambassador coordinator.

In a city where admissions and parking are expensive, guests should be provided with a list of optional activities and explain what EXTRA costs will be involved.

Advise the hosts to discreetly bring problems which may arise to your attention. Early identification of a problem can result in early resolution.