

Culinary Missionary (Small Groups)

Information Sheet

International Friendships, Inc.

What is a Culinary Missionary?

A culinary missionary is someone who serves international students and the IFI ministry team by assisting with the set-up, food provision, and clean-up of our quarterly potluck/picnics or prepares a meal for a Friday night Bible study. As groups come and provide and/or serving food this enables our ministry team to focus on leading discussions and building relationships with the students in their groups. It is also a great way to help others in your church or small group catch the vision of international student ministry. Please see the last paragraph on the other side of this page for other small group service opportunities.

What are the benefits for the Culinary Missionary?

- Experience the IFI ministry firsthand
- Have the opportunity to interact with international students from many countries.
- A great way to “test the waters” to see if you would like to become more involved with IFI.

Who should participate?

Groups of 6-20 who want to demonstrate the love of Jesus by serving the international students in this practical way. This is a great opportunity for church fellowship groups, missions committees, Sunday school classes, or just a few friends who enjoy being together to serve in a practical and meaningful way.

What is the commitment?

This is up to you! Our desire is to have groups who would commit to, at the least once a year.

What is a typical time commitment for the volunteer?

Most of **the quarterly potlucks/picnics** are on Friday night, but occasionally on a Saturday afternoon. The start time for set up is usually between 5:45-6:00 p.m. The clean up is usually done by 10-10:30 p.m. We usually have 2 small groups assigned. One does the set up and one does the clean up.

The meals for **the International-American Bible Study** are always on a Friday night. You and your church group arrive by 6:45 p.m. **One person** in the group needs to share their *three-minute testimony on how they met Jesus*. You can leave at 8:15-8:30 p.m. after the meal or you can stay and listen only but don't participate in, the Bible study which ends at 9:30 p.m. The Bible studies meet somewhere near the OSU campus.

How do I know how much food to bring?

For Potlucks and Picnics: Bring a main dish, vegetable side dish, fruit, or bread to feed yourself and your family and an additional 10-12 people. Others will also be contributing to the meal. Your group is not solely responsible for the entire food provision. For main dishes, we encourage you to think “chicken”, “turkey”, or “vegetarian” rather than “pork” or “beef”!

For the International-American Bible study group we need (2) two dishes (one vegetarian, one non-vegetarian) to feed 45-50 people.

How do I arrange a date?

For Potlucks and Picnics you may contact Leila, Director of Recruitment and Training at IFI (see numbers below)

For the International-American Bible study group you may contact Maureen Okonkwo, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director.

What about bringing children?

In most cases it is o.k. to bring children. In some instances childcare may even be provided. It is best to check with the person listed above to see if childcare is available.

What other opportunities are available for me and/or my small group to help?

Quite often there will be other special events for which food is needed. Please make sure you are on our “food” list, so we can contact you as opportunities arise! Also, many of our activities such as hosting a luncheon in your home or garage sale shopping can be done together as a group. Please check our web site periodically for a list of opportunities.

There are other service opportunities for groups that require more contact with students and a higher level of commitment, such as hosting a monthly Culture, Cuisine, and Conversation Gathering. There are also service projects, such as helping to do light clean up inside and around our building. For a list of those opportunities, please contact: Leila Gardner (see below).

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