



Information on Culture, Cuisine, and Conversation Gatherings For Church Small Groups

Here is what you can expect when your group volunteers to host a Culture, Cuisine, and Conversation Gathering.

Goals: To allow Church groups and other groups of Christians an opportunity to participate in missions as a group without leaving Columbus. Also, to serve those international students who are currently waiting to be matched with an English Conversation or Friendship Partner. Ultimately, since our ministry is relationship-based we are trusting God for relationships to be established between individuals in the group and internationals that will last beyond the CCC meetings.

Requirements to participate:

At least one of your members needs to have completed an IFI New Volunteer training and have an approved application form. Director of Volunteer Recruitment and Training is willing to come to the group and give them a short training, but this is not required. An alternative is that the paper "Interacting with Your International Friend" and the food guidelines below should be reviewed by everyone in the group prior to hosting.

Expectations of the Group:

The group would need to commit to meeting once a month for at least 3 mos. to give it a try. We are hoping the meetings will continue beyond that. You will also be providing food and drink. (See notes below on that.) Perhaps as time goes on the students who are able to will bring some food to share.

What IFI will Do:

Ben Gatling, Volunteer Coordinator will work with your group to decide the date and time of the meetings and how many students you would like to have. He will advertise your group and their meeting to students who are waiting for an American friend or English partner.

Food Guidelines:

1) Ask if the international has any dietary restrictions; 2) Dairy products like cheese, milk, or quiche are not really that appealing for most East Asian students; 3) Some Hindus (India, Pakistan, Nepal) don't eat meat or eggs; and 4) Safe bets are chicken vegetables, rice, and fresh fruit. Also, a great web site for recipes is: <http://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/cuisine>

Your service and love to International students is deeply appreciated!