

# Trip Volunteer Information Sheet

International Friendships, Inc.

## **What is Trip Volunteer?**

A trip volunteer assists an International Friendships Inc. staff person and/or Trip Coordinator. IFI offers international students trips that may be day, overnight, or week-long trips. The role of Trip Volunteer is that of friendship and conversation with students, and in some cases you may be needed to drive a van. Our trips can best be described as a short-term mission trip. Although you will not be leaving the U.S. in most cases (unless we cross over to Niagara Falls, Canada), your role will be that of a cross-cultural missionary as you interact with the students.

## **Where does IFI take international students when they go on trips?**

We take students on trips to various locations that are of interest to them. In some cases there is a sleeper bus used and in other cases vans are driven by volunteers and staff.

- Niagara Falls, NY
- Chicago, IL
- Washington, D.C.
- Out West
- Hocking Hills (OH)
- Florida

## **When are these trips taken?**

The trips are taken during the students' breaks from OSU classes. Typically we take students on the overnight trips that are further away during the spring break in mid-March, summer break in mid-June, during the summer, or before classes start in late September. These trips usually start on a Saturday after finals and end on Wednesday of the next week. The only exception would be the Out West trip which is longer in length. It usually lasts ??? days. Also, occasionally we will do a weekend trip to Hocking Hills which starts on a Saturday in early Oct. and ends on the Sunday.

The day trips are almost always taken on Saturday. These trips go to such places as Amish Country, Hocking Hills, The Air Force Museum, etc. Help is almost always needed with driving for these trips.

## **What is the cost of these trips?**

The cost of the trips is usually low. The students stay in the homes of Christians or "camp out" at churches. The volunteers can stay in Christian homes if there are enough families that open up their home. Or volunteers can stay in a hotel at their own cost. The cost of trips usually includes the travel, accommodation, entrance fees, and most meals.

## **What should I expect to be doing during these trips?**

The format for the overnight trips usually include helping with driving, or sitting and talking with students when someone else is driving. Frequently students who take the trips have been in IFI Bible studies before, and may have questions about God and the Bible. Also, there may be a group devotional in the morning that may prompt questions. Students may ask you to pray for or with them.

You should expect to visit some interesting places with international students and see things from their perspective. You should expect that students may not be as time-conscious as you are. The itinerary for the trip may go off of the planned schedule at times due to so many people to coordinate, cultural differences, or miscommunications that may occur. If you take the posture that this is a short-term mission trip and give God your personal agenda and determine to be His servant regardless of whether your own desires are met, you will have a very rewarding and fruitful trip!

## **Who should participate?**

Those who would like a short-term cross-cultural mission trip experience without leaving the United States! You must have a flexible schedule and be able to take time off work for the duration of the trip. You should have a servant heart and be flexible with regard to time. **If you commit to helping in any way with a trip, it is very important that you keep that commitment. It is very difficult to find a substitute trip helper at the last minute. If we don't have enough drivers, then it will mean that, at the last minute, students will have to be told they can't go. This hurts our Christian witness.**

## **Who should I contact with other questions or to get started by helping with a trip?**

### **International Friendships**

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