

IFI Small Group Involvement Tool Kit

Below are 5 ways church fellowship groups can get involved in serving internationals.
(Promotional flyers and info sheets with more specifics about these opportunities are also available.)

1. Prepare and bring Food to a Friday night Bible Study. Prepare food dishes to share and drop them off at a Friday night Bible Study Group location. The Food flyer can be used to promote this activity and the Info sheet lists the dates when groups are needed.)

Why? If students know there is food to eat on Friday night students will be more likely to come and arrive earlier.

Is screening or training needed? No. This a good way for a new group to get started, since there is no training or screening required to participate.

Is this an ongoing activity? Groups can try it once and then decide if they want to do it again. We prefer that if groups want to keep doing it that they commit to help monthly or quarterly.

How do we get started? The group decides on 2 or 3 possible dates that they would like to help, and then email to tell IFI at: l.gardner@ifipartners.org .

2. Help with Outreach Events: Prepare food, set up, clean up, and help in other ways at one of the following events: Prepare lunch for Hocking Hills Trip- Sat., Oct. 14th (1-2 groups needed); Pumpkin carving- Fri., Oct. 27th (1-2 groups); Marriage Seminar- Sat., Oct. 28th (1- 2 groups); or Lunar New Year- Fri, Feb. 16th (2-3 groups). (See the *Small Groups Calendar 2017-18*)

Why? Events meet students felt need for friendship and allow opportunities for Staff and volunteers to meet or reconnect with internationals. There are hundreds of students that attne If students know there is food to eat on Friday night students will be more likely to come and arrive earlier.

Is screening or training needed? No. This a good way for a new group to get started, since there is no training or screening required to participate.

Is this an ongoing activity? No. Unless groups want to serve at more than 1 event.

How do we get started? The group decides on an event they would like to help with, and then email to let IFI know they are interested at: l.gardner@ifipartners.org .

3. Host a monthly gathering with internationals. Groups invite internationals to a home for conversation and food. IFI sends the names of students, and then someone in the group will personally invite them to come via email and phone. The group would provide food and transportation for students if needed. (See the *Culture, Cuisine, & Conversation Info Sheet* for more info).

Why? Students are looking for comfortable ways to practice speaking English with native speakers. There is currently a wait list of students who have expressed interest.

Is screening or training needed? One person in the group would need to be an IFI volunteer. Web site: ifipartners.org/get-started .

Is this an ongoing activity? Yes, IFI asks that groups commit to do this for a minimum of 3 mos.

4. Prepare care packages. The group buys items (see *Care Package Info sheet*), pack the boxes, pray for specific students, and then return full boxes to IFI or deliver them to internationals at a Bible Study meeting. Just before Finals in Fall and Spring.

Why? This is practical way to share God's love with international students who are studying the Bible, since they are far from family and friends. Encourage them before taking final exams.

Is screening or training needed? No.

Is this an ongoing activity? This is usually done once a year.

How do we get started? Decide how many packages your group can do and email to Leila at: l.gardner@ifipartners.org

5. Pray regularly for an IFI Bible Discussion Group. One person from the group is designated to receive prayer weekly requests from the Bible Discussion leader and the group prays through the requests together.

Why? God answers prayer when His people pray. We need people who want to pray internationals into the kingdom.

Is screening or training needed? No.

Is this an ongoing activity? This is usually done monthly as a group.

How do we get started? Sign up at: ifipartners.org/pray

6. Do a Behind the Scenes Project together. Groups come on a Saturday morning or evening and help with light maintenance and painting, at the IFI office or help with large mailings that need to be sent out.

Why? This helps IFI staff can spend more resources and time on direct ministry to students.

Is screening or training needed? No.

Is this an ongoing activity? This is on an as needed basis.

How do we get started? One person in the group sends an email to Leila at: l.gardner@ifipartners.org explaining how and when the group is available to help.

Promo Flyers and Info Sheets about these activities are in the shared folder below.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-r8d6QbibyXblRlaWpNb1M0QVk?usp=sharing>