



International FRIENDSHIPS

ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL FRIEND

In Your Home

- Ask them to spend the weekend or to come for dinner
- Teach them to cook traditional American foods
- Open your kitchen to them to cook their ethnic specialties
- Include the students in family events such as a reunion
- Share photo albums, videos, or slides of the family (don't overdo it). Ask to see photos of their family
- Take them to an American wedding, shower, graduation, funeral, etc.
- Trim a Christmas Tree – celebrate different holidays with them and research what they do in their own country on such holidays
- Celebrate special holidays for their country
- Invite them for your child's birthday, school program, scout activities, etc.
- Ask the student to share about their country in your child's class, or at a club meeting of yours.

Arts

- Museums, conservatories, art galleries
- Theater, opera, movies
- Folk dancing, or other public events
- Picnic with the Pops (Summer)

Hobbies

- Model railroad
- Collections: stamps, coins, dolls
- Photography
- Gardening

Caring

- Take photos of student and send them to their family
- Drive them to the local ethnic store
- Help them find clothing, cooking utensils, cars, and other goods necessary for everyday living
- Help them plan a budget
- Take them to the local bank to open an account
- Share their problems- be a listening ear
- Invite them to church, but don't be forceful or insist. Just invite them to be observers and to participate as they are comfortable.
- Interpret American customs
- Conversational skills and writing – proofread their papers if they like

Around Town

- Tours of the government buildings
- Columbus Zoo
- Putt-Putt Golf
- Farm markets
- Local ethnic festivals
- Go to library with them
- Franklin Park Conservatory (Bexley)
- COSI and other attractions
- Gallery Hop (first Saturdays, Short North)

Sports

- College or high school events
- Skating, sledding, cross country or downhill skiing
- Badminton, ping pong, volleyball, baseball, basketball, football, soccer
- Boating, fishing, biking
- Columbus Clippers or Columbus Crew game
- Indoor rock climbing (Galyans, Vertical Adventures)
- Horseback riding (Marmon Valley Farms, Bellfountaine)

Outdoors

- Cutting the Christmas tree
- Fourth of July fireworks
- Picnic, BBQ
- Public gardens
- Columbus Metro Parks
- Bike & walking paths
- County / State fairs
- Visit a farm – Amish Country
- Garage sales and auctions
- Yard games, building snowmen, or fort
- Camping
- Fruit picking

ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL FRIEND

If you are an OSU student...

- Take them on a tour of campus if they have just arrived
- Help them find resources such as computer labs, printing stores, etc.
- Decorate their dorm door for their birthday and have cake for them to share with their friends
- Go to a campus concert
- Help them find the sports facilities

Day Trips

- Amish Country
- Hocking Hills
- Cedar Point
- King's Island
- Dayton Air Force Museum
- Longaberger Homestead (Dresden, OH)

Resources for both English lessons and for activities around town can be found at the Columbus Public Libraries. All branches have an “English as a Second Language” (ESL) section. They also subscribe to Columbus Monthly, and will have Thursday's paper, including “The Weekender” section, which lists activities around town for the upcoming week.