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Small Groups Information Sheet

WHAT CAN SMALL GROUPS DO TO SERVE?

Groups serve international students and the IFI ministry team by assisting with the set-up, food provision, and clean-up at our quarterly potluck/picnics or and/or the 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 GROUP?

- 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 your group or individuals in your group 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?

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. 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, picnics, and special events: Bring food to share with students. Homemade food dishes are preferred, but fruit and some pre-made food are o.k. Generally, food dishes that serve 25 or more is needed. Your group is not solely responsible for the entire food provision. You will be given more info when you sign up. Help is also needed with setup, serving food, cleanup, and other activities depending on the event needs.

For the International-American Bible study group we need several food dishes (vegetarian and non-vegetarian) to feed 100-150 people. The amount of food needed will vary depending on how many other groups or individuals are bringing food. 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”!

Small Groups Information Sheet (cont.)

HOW DO I ARRANGE A DATE?

For the dates of upcoming events: visit our web site at: ifipartners.org/small-groups or contact Leila at: l.gardner@ifipartners.org for questions.

For bringing food to the Friday night International-American Bible study group. Check out dates at: columbus.ifipartners.org/ualc-helpers/ and to sign up, contact Russ at: russ@ifiusa.org .

WHAT ABOUT BRINGING CHILDREN?

In most cases it is o.k. to bring children. Some events may allow children to attend. It is best to check with the IFI contact person prior to the event to see if it is o.k. and if childcare is provided.

WHAT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ME AND/OR MY SMALL GROUP TO HELP?

In addition to special events where we need help with food dishes, serving food, setup, cleanup, and helping with activities, there are also other service opportunities for groups that desire more contact with students and a higher level of commitment, such as hosting a monthly Culture, Cuisine, and Conversation Gathering. Also there are behind the scenes service projects, such as helping to do light clean up inside and around our office building, helping with big mailings, and stuffing care packages. Finally, groups are needed to pray for students who are in a Bible Study group. To get a copy of the current Small Groups Calendar, please visit: columbus.ifipartners.org/small-groups or contact Leila at l.gardner@ifipartners.org .