



Information on Culture, Cuisine, and Conversation (CCC) Gatherings for Church Small Groups

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

Goals:

- 1) To allow Church groups (or groups of Christians) an opportunity to participate together in missions work without leaving Columbus.
- 2) To serve those international students who are currently waiting to be matched with an English Conversation or Friendship Partner by hosting a monthly social gathering. (*The format is different from your regular Fellowship/Bible Study meeting.*)
- 3) 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 and that will bear fruit.

Requirements to participate:

- 1) At least one of your members needs to be an Active IFI Volunteer (Has completed a New Volunteer Training and has an approved application form and background check.) *If not, please visit: columbus.ifipartners.org/get-started to begin the process. Please select the "Small Group" volunteer opportunity and in comments type "CCC Gathering".*
- 2) At a minimum everyone in the group should be review this sheet and the handouts: **"Interacting with Internationals"** and the **"Conversation Starters"**, prior to hosting. While the Asst. Director of Mission Support is willing to come to the group and give a short training, this is not required.
- 3) Also, the group should have a plan. You need to decide dates for meetings, a topic(s) to discuss, such as food, holidays, etc. (This is a party, and is not to be a Bible Study.), and talk about ways in which they can make the students feel welcome, such as using name tags, and ice breaker games, etc.

IFI- CCC Gatherings (Cont.)

What IFI Expects of the Group:

- 1) The group would need to commit to hosting a Gathering once a month for at least 3 months to give it a try. We hope the meetings will continue beyond that.
- 2) The group will be providing food and drink. It can be snacks or a full meal, but please let students know ahead so they can eat dinner, if a full meal is not being served. (See “Food Guidelines” below.) Perhaps as time goes on the students will want to bring some food to share.
- 3) Most students will need transportation to and from the house you are meeting at. For the first meeting plan a place to pick up and drop students, such as outside the Ohio Union or the University Village Office parking lot.

What IFI will Do:

- 1) Our Volunteer Coordinator, (volunteers@ifipartners.org) will work with your group to decide the date and time of the meetings, and how many internationals you would like to have.
- 2) He will advertise your group and their meeting to the internationals who are waiting for an American friend or English conversation partner.
- 3) As internationals express interest, he will provide you with the names, countries of origin, education levels, and email addresses and phone numbers for you to contact and invite them to your group. (We suggest you call first, but always send an email invite as a follow up.)

Food Guidelines:

- 1) Ask each international if they have any dietary restrictions;
- 2) Dairy products like cheese, milk, or quiche are not really that appealing for most East Asian students (Some of them tend to be lactose intolerant.);
- 3) Some Hindus (India, Pakistan, Nepal) don't eat meat (especially beef) or eggs
- 4) Safe bets are chicken vegetables, rice, and fresh fruit. Also, a great web site for recipes is: www.bettycrocker.com/Recipes/Global-Cuisine .

When you are ready to begin hosting internationals for a CCC Gathering or have questions, please contact Leila, Asst. Director of Mission Support, at l.gardner@ifipartners.org or call 614-294-2434 x-202.

Your service and love shown to International students is deeply appreciated!