

IFI Welcome Picnic

AUGUST 12, 2023

COMPREHENSIVE FLYER

This flyer gives an overview of the event and the different ways you can help serve internationals. Thanks in advance for making the world feel at home with IFI!

WHAT IS THE IFI WELCOME PICNIC?

- Mission:** To get international students and IFI volunteers together in a fun and nurturing setting, with the ultimate goal of leading the students to Christ.
- Goals:**
1. Help students make friends with other students and American families to establish long-term friendships.
 2. Encourage awareness and involvement in IFI (for students and new volunteers)
 3. Welcome students and make them feel at home.



The Welcome Picnic is an opportunity for new international students to interact with each other and with their host(s). We ask that only those volunteers who are serving and/or bringing their NEW students (new students only please) attend. This year we are expecting 300-450 students to attend, so food is a HUGE need.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Event Date: Saturday - August 12, 2023

Event Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Help is needed 1:00pm - 10:00pm

Venue: Maranatha Baptist Church
4663 Trabue Rd,
Columbus, OH 43228

Register at: columbus.ifipartners.org/events

Contact us: events@ifiusa.org

Ways to Serve (More details on the next page):

1. Pray for the Event - 1:30pm - 2:30pm
2. Bring food - 3:30pm - 5:30pm
3. Set up registration, serving areas and games - 1:00pm - 4:00pm
4. Help at the food section - 3:30pm - 8:00pm
5. Interact with students - 4:00pm - 8:00pm
6. Provide transportation for students - 3:15pm - 4:00pm & 8:00pm - 8:45pm
7. Help clean up after the event - 8:00pm - 9:30pm
8. Help with registration - 3:30pm - 6:00pm
9. Take photos during the event (bring camera) - 4:00pm - 8:00pm
10. Load IFI's Van and Offload at IFI's Office - 8:30pm - 10:00pm

Most serving opportunities are 2 hour time commitments. Volunteers may do multiple shifts during the event.

All volunteers must register online before the event so we know how many international students we can commit to serve.

Register at COLUMBUS.IFIPARTNERS.ORG/EVENTS

Join our Event Planning Team!

June through August, the Welcome Events Planning Team meets once in a weekly to plan for the event. We welcome anyone with a heart for hospitality, recruiting experience, software, or logistic skills and a heart for international students.

Contact Tosan Otoks at tosan@ifiusa.org if you are interested.

PRAY FOR THE EVENT

Pray for good weather, that students would connect with Christians and be eager to learn more about God and attend the Bible study groups. Come at 1:00p to walk around the premises to pray with the prayer coordinator.

BRING FOOD

We expect around 400 people to attend the picnic this year. This will be the first opportunity for many students to try American picnic food. Casseroles, lasagna trays, cooked vegetables, salads, jello, watermelon and other cut fruits are needed. We need people to bring different dishes. Please do not bring food with mayo. Burgers and hot dogs are also needed in large quantities (please contact tosan@ifipartners.org if you can provide).

SET UP REGISTRATION, FOOD SERVING AREAS, & GAMES

We need 3 people to come to the IFI office (1550 Old Henderson Rd.) at 12:30 pm to load items in the truck for the event. We need 12 people to arrive at the park beside the church by 1:00 pm to help with setup. One group (2-3 people) will set up traffic signs and direct the flow of traffic. Another group will set up the registration and serving tables, while another group will set up the volleyball nets, badminton sets bocce, bean bag toss, etc..

HELP AT THE FOOD SECTION

We need 4 people to receive food at the entrance of the church and run it to the kitchen, 6 people preparing food, 4-6 people to replenish the food, 15-20 people to serve food and 4 people to clean up the kitchen. This group will also monitor the food on the serving tables, replenish dishes and bring items from the grills as students go through the line.

INTERACT WITH STUDENTS

One of our main goals for the picnic is to connect students to one another, IFI staff, and Bible study leaders. We would like volunteers to come and interact with the students. Our goal is to have one volunteer for every 4 International students. We will have games and activities to help you meet and get to know students. Please also take the opportunity to talk to students who seem isolated. To follow up with students after the event, **TRAINING IS REQUIRED**. We would like all the volunteers who are spending a lot of time interacting with students to complete our application and training.

PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION

We encourage volunteers to bring any students that they have hosted, and use it as an opportunity to have their students invite other new international students that they have met. We also need volunteers with vans available to pick up students either at the Ohio Union or the UV (University Village) Leasing office to provide rides for students who were not hosted by IFI. Three (3) leaders are needed at each location to coordinate rides, sign students up, and check students in. Arrive at UV or the Ohio Union at 3:15pm and depart at 3:30pm. We also need the driver to drop off students at their pick up locations at the end of the events

HELP CLEAN UP AFTER THE EVENT

Putting together a large picnic takes a good number of volunteers. A key part of the picnic is packing up all the games and supplies and getting them back to the IFI office after the event. Let us know if you can help in this vital part of the project. In the past, some couples have elected to have one spouse drive students and the other go to the park directly to help with setup and clean up for the event.

HELP WITH REGISTRATION

We need 10 people to arrive at 3:30pm to help with 4 lines of registration. This is estimated to be 2-hour job. Then we need 2 people to stay behind to register the people who arrive late..