



Creating Friendships for Peace

HOST FAMILY HANDBOOK

A Guide to an Enjoyable Summer

Revised December 2022

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HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the teens leave their home country

Contact each family before the teens arrive. Reach out via email, text message, telephone, and/or video conferencing. Please arrange to speak to both the teens, as well as their parents. It will comfort the parents and allow the teens to ask questions. Try to maintain contact after the initial call; this additional contact can help reduce the possibility of homesickness once the teens arrive. Communicating early with your teens is very important in assisting them to feel welcome in your home and gives them and their parents much comfort. Some teens have never traveled away from home, so this journey is a tremendous experience for them and their families.

Most CFP teens have access to computers and cell phones, so communicating via apps such as email, Facebook messenger, WhatsApp, and Zoom are likely options. While the teens speak English, be sensitive to the possibility that their parents and family members may not be comfortable speaking English.

Note: If you need help with the technical aspects of communications apps, please speak to your local coordinator. To dial from the U.S., dial 011, followed by the number listed on the teens' applications.

Parents of the Teens

Participating in CFP can be an act of courage and trust for teen families. Many of them have never been to the United States. Moreover, they are taking a risk in their own communities by participating, as extreme factions do not wish to see peace-building programs succeed.

We must emphasize the benefits of involving the parents, starting with your first contact.

Most families will immediately express gratitude

for your willingness to host their children. Even so, it is a big step for these parents to entrust their children with you. Please assure them their children will be well supervised and in a supportive, neutral home. Please also assure them that they are going to a safe environment. The impression of the U.S. may be that we are a violent and crime-ridden society. Many parents may have concerns about the safety of their children. Remind parents that we take a conscientious and cautious approach to the safety and wellbeing of every teen in our program.

Please contact your Area Coordinator if you have difficulty reaching your teens' families before their arrival. You should contact your teens within ten days of receiving their contact information. Area Coordinators are always available to assist you in every stage of this process.

GETTING STARTED

In early June, we will send flight information (e.g., flight numbers, times of arrival, and departure). Please be prepared to meet your teens at the airport when they arrive.

Usually, your Area Coordinator will be at the airport, but if this is not the case, contact your Area Coordinator as soon as the teens are in your custody. The Area Coordinator will provide this information to the Executive Director, who will then relay the information to the Coordinators in the home country.

In addition, have each teen call home as soon as they reach your home safely. Their parents will be waiting to hear from them no matter how late it might be (+7 hours from the East Coast and +10 hours from the West Coast). Use email or text messages if a telephone is not possible. You can also download a mobile app called WhatsApp, used for calling or texting for free via wifi.

Either you or the Area Coordinator should take their passports, airline tickets (if provided), medical insurance forms, parental permission forms, and instructions for safekeeping. The Area Coordinator and the Host Parents should have the original documents or copies of them whenever they are with the teens in case of a medical issue. We strongly advise carrying only copies of passports to ensure the originals are not lost.

PLEASE CARRY A PHOTOCOPY OF THE INSURANCE INFORMATION WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

CFP Expectations: Establishing House Rules

It is imperative to discuss any Host Family rules and expectations that you have in the first few days of the teens' arrival. Hold a family meeting to review ground rules such as television viewing, curfews, food rules, and internet/computer access. Feel free to add any chores you may like to have them perform while in your home, such as making their bed, cleaning up their dishes, doing laundry, etc. Posting them in a visible location, such as on the refrigerator, is helpful. Some teens are from families that do not assign chores at home, so your requests may sound strange or even off-putting. It is CFP's experience that part of the success in building friendships is to immerse the teens into critical aspects of American culture and that teen chores are considered a part of teens adopting increasing responsibilities as they grow up. It is also helpful for the teens to understand that shared tasks avoid burdening one family member with all the chores. The Area Coordinator will also discuss this with the teens during their welcome gathering the first week they are here.

The teens will be wearing a CFP T-shirt when they arrive. Tell the teens that their T-shirts are not to be modified by writing on them or cutting them at the neckline, etc. Please ensure teens wear them at public events, weather permitting, and on their return flight. We rely on others to

escort them to airports. T-shirts are crucial for identification and assuring that the teens are accounted for and met at their destination.

As the teens settle in, please remind them of the restrictions on computer and cell phone usage described below.

In the Event of Any Problem

If any problem arises with you or the teens, don't hesitate to get in touch with your Area Coordinator. Often, a CFP Coordinator call can help assess a situation, resolve a misunderstanding, or change a behavior. Our coordinators are experienced and willing to help. We do not want unhappy teens. We also wish to have happy hosts. This experience may be as much of a cultural shock to you as it is to your visitors.

Let your CFP coordinator know if you have any reason to believe that the two teens are not pursuing a friendship or if either seems not to subscribe to the program's goals.

Homesickness

It is best to plan only light activities for at least 24 hours after their arrival. Aside from cultural and family adjustments, there can be a time change, depending on their destination. In addition, many of the teens are so excited about the trip that they may not sleep for a day or two before leaving. Thus, many teens experience a few days of "jet lag."

Occasionally, homesickness occurs among teens, particularly during the first week to ten days. The more contact the teens have with you before their arrival, the easier the adjustment.

IMPORTANT GROUND RULES

Our overriding concern is that the teens be safe and treated equally, with their differing views respected.

Child Protection

CFP is committed to protecting the teens in the program and has defined the CFP Child Abuse Prevention Policy and Procedures. CFP takes measures to minimize the chance that we will have issues of abuse.

Hosts should be careful to avoid situations and actions that would leave them open to accusations of abuse. Similarly, hosts should ensure that CFP teens are not engaged in settings where they may be vulnerable to abuse by others, including U.S. teens.

CFP's Child Abuse Prevention Policy and Procedures are attached to this handbook

Health Issues

The teens come with health insurance. Hosts should review these medical forms carefully upon the teens' arrival. In the event of an illness, obtain appropriate medical care. If you have a medical emergency, need a form, or have questions about our insurance, contact the Executive Director. CFP covers the deductible; send the Executive Director a copy of the bill for reimbursement. Complete insurance instructions are provided under separate cover.

Other Emergencies

In the event of another type of emergency, contact your Area Coordinator immediately. If you are unable to reach them, contact the Executive Director. Either will help with contacts and assist you with any questions.

Traveling during the Summer

If you plan to travel across state lines with your teens, let your Area Coordinator know when you will be away from home for more than 24 hours, where you will be, and how you are reachable. These details provide crucial information in the event of an emergency back home.

Handling the Teens

Treat the teens equally in every respect.

You are encouraged to discuss with the teens their lives, i.e., their families, schools, friends, towns, interests, etc. Asking them to discuss the reasons for their participation in CFP is also welcome, if the teens feel the conversation is neutral, non-judgmental, and safe.

Allow the teens to initiate any discussion about the conflict or peace negotiations with you. They may have deeply felt opinions, but we do not need to get them into a heated debate. At no time should a host parent become engaged in an argument with a teen. If your teens bring up the conflict with you, you must listen and ensure that any questions or comments you make are neutral and sensitive to both teens.

Among the teens, discussions may already be taking place outside your earshot. This program aims to build lasting understanding and friendship between each pair during the U.S. stay. When they feel safe enough with each other, it is up to the teens to discuss the conflict directly. We respect the need for each teen to find what they have in common with their pair beyond the likely strong opinions they have about what divides them.

Please discourage your friends from raising subjects related to the conflict but encourage them to ask the teens about their lives.

All complicated and sensitive issues deserve respect, neutrality, empathy, and care.

Your Area Coordinator is your resource for any questions and will organize a group conflict resolution workshop which should facilitate these types of discussions. There will also be a host family orientation where you will meet other hosts, share experiences, and start planning for their time here.

Contact with the Media

CFP encourages contact with the press and media. Your Area Coordinator can help coordinate this. A question on the teen parents' portion of the application asks if they consent to the media interviewing their child. Rarely is there an objection. If your teen's parents do object, your Area Coordinator will notify you.

Dating, Driving, and Other Activities

CFP does not allow teens to date. Only group activities are permitted. Discourage anything that will separate them. If they go out, let it be with other youth in the area with adult supervision. Have them always go everywhere together as a pair. Even if the teens have driver's licenses, they are not allowed to drive cars or other motor vehicles in the U.S. during their homestay, and they should not ride with drivers under 18 years of age unless an adult is present. The teens are not allowed to drive or ride on the backs of motorcycles or other motorized, open vehicles such as ATVs, UTVs, or golf carts (other than cars).

The teens are not allowed to drink any type of alcohol – even if they say that they do so at home. The teens are not allowed to smoke cigarettes, cigars, or vaping products or partake in any recreational marijuana, even if your state permits. Finally, teens are not allowed to buy cigarettes, cigars, vaping products, marijuana, or liquor to take home.

The teens should not travel to see others in their family or friends in the U.S. Similarly. Such individuals should not be allowed to cause one teen to have advantages over the other (e.g., be taken separately to events or to receive gifts).

The teens are not to go off alone, ride any mass transit alone, or have a sleepover at another host family home without the permission of the Area Coordinator. They are not American streetwise. Also, the teens will not have cell phones to call if they get lost. Similarly, teens should not be left

alone at home for extended periods. However, leaving them while you take a quick trip to the store is no problem, assuming you feel they are safe.

You should encourage the teens to be active. Once insurance is set up, each Area Coordinator will notify you of the list of activities not covered. Beyond this list, we hope that teens can stay active and engaged.

Telephone/Zoom/WhatsApp Calls

CFP, as do other organizations like us, place unusual boundaries around cell phone and technology use when bringing teens together from opposing sides of a conflict. This is in place to create a safe environment with limited distractions. By 'disconnecting,' we believe that we can offer an enriched-life-changing experience for young leaders by encouraging teens to engage distraction-free with one another, thereby allowing for "deeper connection" and bonding.

In setting these communication restrictions, CFP also wants the parents of the teens to know that their children are doing well.

Except for emergencies, approved calls are:

- Individual call on arrival at the host family residence, regardless of time
- One scheduled teen call to family per week (approx. 60 mins. each)
- Optional: 1 group family call by teen pair with both families (approx. 1 hr.)

International calls should not be made to or received from non-family members. Host families are encouraged to send private emails to the parents of the teens on a more frequent basis. The parents will very much appreciate it.

Your Area Coordinator will provide you with a copy of CFP's Cell Phone Policy document, to which all participating teens and their families have accepted.

Use of technology

Internet use is allowed only under your supervision, such as offering you information about their home country or topics you might discuss together. CFP does not allow internet use involving any social media for teens during their stay in your home. For example, teens may not post comments, photos, or status changes on Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, or similar social media platforms. We firmly ask for host family cooperation in enforcing this policy. Our goal is to provide opportunities for positive and meaningful connections away from the social and political challenges posed by social media.

Although the policy may seem overly strict to some, it is based on experience and seeks to address two concerns.

1. CFP maintains that the relationship between each pair of teens is the month's primary focus. They return to their social media upon their return. We have found that social networking, emailing, and text messaging between teens and friends back home or other teens on the program can tend to draw the focus away from their partner.
2. The host family and the pair of teens have a fair chance to adjust to each other, and their relationship has an opportunity to grow. We have found that extra pressures can compromise the bond with host families when teens are allowed to "compare notes" on their experiences while in the U.S., either directly with other teens in the program or indirectly through relatives in their home country. For example, if the teens somehow feel short-changed. These are unnecessary distractions to our mission.

Please note that in the past some host families have allowed their teens to email home, only to regret that decision!

The teens are experienced with Facebook. Under your supervision at the family computer, the

teens may find it a valuable tool to explore each other's different online social communities. They may find many commonalities. What they are asked not to do is comment or post to avoid all contact and misinterpretations with their friends at home. It is best to avoid this in order to avoid unnecessary issues.

If you are not around to supervise, please do not allow them access to the computer. Setting password protected access on your computer will be helpful.

Religion

The teens may or may not practice their faith.

There is a question on the parents' portion of the application asking if there is any objection to their child attending religious services of other religions. As with the case of contact with the media, most parents have no objection. Your Area Coordinator will inform you if your teen's parents object. **We require that host families respectfully honor this request.** Should your teen request to attend their faith's services, feel free to make the necessary arrangements and contact your coordinator if you need help. On the other hand, if the parents or teens don't object, you can expose the teens to the religious diversity in the U.S.

Under no circumstances, should there be any effort, by anyone, to change or challenge the religious beliefs of either of the teens.

Firearms

It is CFP policy that the teens should not come in contact with any type of firearm during their visit. We extend this to include toy guns, rifles, etc. If you have firearms, please keep them locked up and unloaded during your teens' stay or stored off site if possible.

Movies and videos

Hosts should exercise discretion about what

movies and/or videos the teens are allowed to view. Please consider the movie's rating as you would for your own children and be aware of the movie's content before allowing teens to view it. Politically, racially and religiously sensitive films should be avoided.

American cable and satellite television can be a source of endless interest. Please keep the use of television, downloaded movies and videos in proper proportion to more active, relationship building or educational activities.

Responsibility

Please understand that you alone are the guardian of the teens while visiting. They must be under adult supervision. Your residence is registered with the American Embassy as their temporary address. Please do not allow the teens to stay overnight with someone else, unless that stay is specifically cleared with your Area Coordinator. Treat them as family, not tourists, as you would want your children treated in a foreign country.

CFP Leadership Program

The teens' stay in the U.S. is referred to as the U.S. Residential portion of the CFP program. It plays an important part in CFP's goal of not only developing friendships but also developing the next generation of leaders. To that end, during their stay in the U.S. the teens will participate in various skill building activities.

The Leadership Program is a key component of their stay. Should your family commitments preclude the teens from attending an event, please contact your Area Coordinator to discuss the situation and see if other arrangements can be made or if the teens can be exempt from the event. To the greatest extent possible, Area Coordinators will try to accommodate family vacations to enable the teens to participate in all events. Transportation to some of the events should not put undue stress on the hosts. Please request assistance and seek carpooling.

We recognize the need for host families to be able to set their own family's schedule for the summer. We will announce scheduled events prior to the teens' arrival in the U.S. and will do so as early as possible.

Money

Our money system will be foreign to your two visitors. It is advisable to supervise their first purchases. Some teens will have worked very hard to earn their spending money, and many will have received money from relatives for the trip. They are instructed to bring not more than \$300 and will expect to buy souvenirs as well as gifts for parents and friends.

Host families are expected to cover their teens' general living expenses and the costs of any special events you choose to organize for them, including event tickets, meals, etc.

If the teens ask to attend a non-group activity which you would normally not undertake, you may ask them to cover their own expenses while you cover yours. Always feel free to decline such a request, especially if it imposes a burden on you or your family. Teens will be teens and it is completely acceptable to say no to a requested activity. If this becomes an issue, contact your Area Coordinator right away.

Encourage them to leave the shopping for gifts until late in the visit when they will have a better idea of which optional group activities, they should like to attend requiring self-pay (see below), as well as what is available for purchase and the relative cost of various gifts. The Area Coordinator will discuss at the welcome gathering the importance of budgeting. Please help them evaluate the condition of their budget before buying souvenirs and gifts. Baggage fees charged by the airlines will be fees the teens and their families will be made aware of and will bring the extra funds for those costs

[Note: the program recognizes that \$300 is a large sum, larger than many would allow their

own children to have or to spend over a month. The limit has been set in recognition that this may be the only chance for the teens to visit the U.S., that they may wish to participate in the optional group activities or that they will wish to purchase gifts. It is also interesting to note that prices in the U.S. may be lower than at home.]

If you buy something for one teen, please do the same for the other, so that there will be no inequities or misunderstandings.

Some hosts have found that they can reduce their costs of hosting by informing businesses, churches and civic groups about the teens and the program. Many are willing to donate non-cash items such as event tickets or meals. **At no time should the host families solicit or accept cash gifts or donations to support host families or their teens.**

Optional social group activities organized by the Area Coordinator may involve costs such as transportation, tickets, food, etc. If your teens choose to participate, they can pay the costs.

As the CFP program has grown over the years and the teens returning to their home countries have compared their experiences, new teens coming to the U.S. may have expectations of what they will do and where they will visit that differ from their host families. **The teens are here on a peace mission—not on a vacation—**and should not make their host families uncomfortable by asking for extra trips or experiences. Our hosts are not tour guides and are not expected to fund the teens' desires. Your Area Coordinator will set expectations with the teens at the welcome gathering. If your teens become demanding, feel free to contact your Area Coordinator for advice or intervention.

THE BOARD OF CFP, INC. HAS VOTED TO DISALLOW TRIPS TO NEW YORK CITY BY AREA GROUPS OR BY HOST FAMILIES IN RESPONSE TO PAST PRESSURE EXERTED BY THE TEENS ON THEIR HOSTS. THIS TRIP HAS BECOME A DISTRACTION TO OUR MISSION.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Personalities

Please remember that the teens may take some time to adjust. Do not treat them like guests. Make them part of your family. Give them chores to do – making their beds, doing dishes, washing the car, etc. However, they should not be treated as nannies, gardeners, or other home professionals.

Some teens are more articulate or expressive than others. So, it is possible that, despite several weeks of hosting, you will not be able to learn the importance of what you have given to these two young individuals and to the future of their countries. Please be assured that you are making an extremely important contribution to peace, friendship, and understanding at a crucial period of time. Many CFP alumni have continued to be involved in peace efforts through their schools and universities, careers, or volunteering. The families often continue their relationships with the families of their teen's partner. These relationships are not only important in building peace but also in a post-peace environment.

Cultural Immersion

A key part of CFP and its peacebuilding mission is to encourage the teens to immerse themselves into American culture as much as practical. Programs which place students abroad recognize the value and importance of building understanding between countries. Immersing in another's country also may open their minds to accepting differences between their communities or to recognize that their two communities are more similar to each other than to the U.S. All of this may help them bridge the divide in their home countries.

In contrasting American life to their home life, the teens will experience many similarities and many differences. Among the differences is that children in some cultures are not expected to

participate in chores. When you communicate the rules of the house, including chores, explain the reasons underlying why American children have chores—chores help us take responsibility in the family and ensure that no one person has to do the majority of chores. Similarly, the U.S. has a much greater commitment to volunteering for a good cause than other countries. Help them to see and understand this important aspect of our culture and remind them there will be an area group activity to benefit the local community. Also explain the importance in this country to support diversity of race, national origin, religion, gender, sexual preferences, economic and other differences and how our laws offer equal protection.

It is also important to note that thanking others is not necessarily part of other cultures. In some cultures, one is less expected to thank than to reciprocate—usually at a higher level than was given. If your teens do not thank you, you can explain how important the custom is and how and why it is expected. Also know that, if you visit their home countries, their families will expect to honor you with dinners in their homes and may even invite you to stay with them.

Food

CFP teens are no different from many U.S. teens in the types of food they enjoy. Each has specific likes and dislikes. Your teens may be familiar with some American fast-food restaurants. Exposing the teens to a variety of foods available in the U.S. can enrich their experience. But some teens may follow special dietary restrictions which should be incorporated into your meal planning. All food concerns should be discussed at your first family meeting.

Do not make each meal a guest meal. Serve what you normally do. They should be encouraged to try everything. Encourage your teens to work together to plan and prepare meals of their choosing.

Dietary Restriction Guidelines are included in

this handbook.

Rooming Arrangements

It is required by CFP that both teens share a room by themselves while staying with you. Ideally, each will have his or her own bed. Boys probably won't, but girls may be comfortable sharing a queen bed, if this is necessary. This is where they talk together and become friends.

Environmental Differences

Mosquitoes and ticks may not be common in the home countries. While here, ensure your teens are protected with proper clothing, lotions, and itch medicines. They will learn to adjust just as we have. The key is to teach them what is necessary. Bug bites can become infected. Be sure to monitor the itching and seek medical attention if necessary.

They will not have seen fireflies and many other forms of wildlife native to your area.

While the climate varies greatly in the U.S., wherever you might be, it may be completely different from what they are used to. Also, your teens may use the centigrade system. Most modern thermometers have dual scales that offer an easy conversion.

These are differences they will enjoy, but some caution is in order. Other countries do experience thunder and lightning, but not with the severity of summer storms in parts of the U.S. They may need to learn how to prevent undue danger. You are encouraged to read CFP's description of the environment in your area and discuss it with the teens and their families before they pack.

Swimming

Please make sure that swimming is supervised. Not all teens are strong swimmers, making supervision important in swimming pools, freshwater lakes, and saltwater. Additionally,

some of our coastal areas have higher waves and stronger tides than other countries. It is important to educate teens about water safety.

Other Suggestions for Activities

Feel free to take the teens with you when shopping and doing errands and other household activities. They often enjoy the contrast and similarities in grocery stores, malls, and other aspects of daily life.

Show them how things work in your home, where to put dirty laundry, etc. They may live out of the suitcase if you do not tell them where to put their clothes.

Sanitation systems in some countries preclude putting toilet paper in the toilet. Instead, they typically have waste baskets for discarding toilet paper. Please advise your teens that they can put it in the toilet but to flush often and tell them not to put any type of cleansing wipe in the toilet, even if it says it can be flushed. Instruct your female teens how to properly discard sanitary products.

Each teen will have a limited number of clothes. Talk to them about doing laundry and linen changes. If you want them to do their own, let them know from the outset and teach them how to use your washer and or dryer.

Activities to consider:

- Having the teens jointly prepare a presentation about their home country and CFP for delivery to church, civic groups and/or the farewell gathering
- Having the teens perform together musically
- Having visits, picnics or other shared activities with families who may be interested in hosting in the future
- Visiting the zoo
- Letting them cook dinner
- Hosting all CFP teens located near you for a movie in your home
- Hiking
- Visiting museums

Bi-Communal Follow-up

CFP is focused on friendship, understanding, leadership, and peace for the next generation in divided countries. Refrain from allowing your hosting to become merely a summer holiday for the teens. CFP strives to be a springboard for future cross-community workers and leaders. During their time with you, please encourage the teens to work together and think about bi-communal activities they may pursue after graduation through the CFP Alumni program. Help them realize that they can help change the attitude of their generation.

Language

Some of the most natural uses of language and most innocent topics in the U.S. may not be neutral in their home countries. The teens have been warned to expect such instances and to disregard them as non-political statements made from unintended ignorance. However, the more we educate ourselves so that they can be avoided, the better.

Please also recognize that divided communities have different views of history that have been passed down from one generation to the next and through their school systems. Divided communities are conflict areas and historical bias helps to maintain the conflicts. CFP is helping the teens to understand the full picture of their histories.

Other Things of which to be Aware

Please ask the teens to be ready before the time you will leave the house for an outside activity.

When you offer something to them (i.e., a drink, food, gift), they may refuse because they feel that it is impolite to accept it straight away. If you would like to offer something to them, make it clear that you mean it and offer it more than once.

Teens may not be used to housework, but

through this program they may have the opportunity to learn how to take care of themselves.

They may not be used to wearing seatbelts in the backseat of the car, so please insist they do.

Most host families ask the teens to sit together in the back. If you invite one teen to sit in the front seat with the driver, be sure that the other teen has equal turns in the front seat. Try to avoid any situation which suggests preferences.

PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE

The last week before they return home is the hardest for both the host family and the teens. Everyone is tired and regrets seeing the adventure end. The Area Coordinator will plan a farewell gathering for all host families and teens. You can save one special family activity for the end of the last week before the packing and the emotional farewell.

The teens have been instructed to bring one large suitcase with enough room to pack any items they might purchase and one piece of hand baggage suitable for carry-on. Baseball bats, fishing rods and other items of unusual shape cannot be carried on the plane. Any such items must be able to be packed in the suitcase. No

guns or knives are permitted. If there is any question about any purchase the teen is considering packing, check with your local airport for international travel regulations. Airlines will charge the teens for overweight baggage. Be sure to check the weight of the bags before departure day if you think it will be close. (Area Coordinators will communicate the return details a week before the trip.)

CLOSING NOTES

We hope this background information will give you additional insight into your teens, backgrounds, and lifestyles. Do not be intimidated by the words of caution. We try to cover as many eventualities as possible—plan for a fun-filled time with two young friends!

Know that your hosting will forever change the lives of these two teens, their families, and their friends. The tolerance, understanding, and friendships developed with you will make a real difference in the prospects for peace in a very important part of the world.

**RELAX AND
ENJOY YOUR JULY!**



CFP IN CYPRUS

Creating Friendships for Peace has developed a two-year peacebuilding and leadership training program for teens in Cyprus, which is known on the island as the Cyprus Friendship Program. A fundamental component of this program relies on an organization of volunteers from both the northern and southern sides of Cyprus – CFP’s Cypriot Coordinators. This organization uses the British spelling in Cyprus, i.e., Cyprus Friendship Programme, and uses its own logo, anticipating a time when it can become independent.

CYPRUS PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

While the time the teens are in the U.S. is extremely valuable, it is by no means the beginning of the program. Teens interview and are selected in March. Immediately, the Cypriot coordinators organize events for the teens, both social and leadership training activities. By early spring, the teens are paired and soon after their families begin to meet with each other. By the time the teens reach the United States, they have been participating in the program for several months as a group and are poised to deepen the friendship with their matched partner from the other side of the divide.

During their nearly 4-week home stay they will participate in organized activities that complement their Cyprus Year 1 camp curriculum. The events done in each region will include, but not be limited to, community/environmental projects, conflict resolution workshop, farewell celebration and other informal group outings. These activities will include their teen counterparts from other conflict zones. Activities will be scheduled by each Area Coordinator.

After their return to Cyprus, there is a graduation ceremony held over Indigenous People’s Day, formerly, Columbus Day, weekend in October in the Nicosia area which is the divided capital. All host families are invited. This ceremony is a rare gathering of over 400 people from both sides of Cyprus in one place, celebrating the friendships

formed over the year. But, more than that, it is the beginning of the next phase of the peacebuilding process for these teens. The ceremony itself is a commitment of the group to work together for the next year to promote peace and understanding between the two communities, by continuing the work they have begun and by helping to promote the program for next year’s group of CFP teens.

CYPRUS HISTORY

Since 1974, the island of Cyprus has been divided between the Greek-speaking side in the southern part of Cyprus and the Turkish-speaking side in the northern part of Cyprus. The history leading to this division is long and complicated.



Cyprus is located on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea, approximately 50 miles west of Syria, south of Turkey and east of Greece. It was settled in prehistoric times, and the Museum of Cyprus contains artifacts believed to be up to 10,000 years BC. Due in large part to its location, Cyprus has been infused with many

cultures over its history, including invasions by many empires and countries. (Too lengthy to relate here, the history of Cyprus is worthy of research for interested host families.)

In 1878, the Ottoman Empire ceded Cyprus rule to Britain, and the British controlled Cyprus until 1960—first as a protectorate and then as a colony.

Following independence from British rule in 1960, the Republic of Cyprus was established. The joint republic collapsed in 1963 and tension between the Greek-speaking and Turkish-speaking communities intensified. In the ensuing years, hostility between the two sides increased and a physical barrier called the Green Line was erected in 1964. It separated the island into two parts “from Morphou through Nicosia to Famagusta” and is still patrolled by troops from the United Nations (Housden 2004).

In July 1974, a Greek engineered coup took place on the island, and, in response, Turkey landed troops on the island with the intention of protecting the Turkish-Cypriot community (BBC Cyprus Timeline 2009). Not long after, fighting between the two sides broke out, and about 160,000 Greek Cypriots fled to the South. A year later, 50,000 Turkish Cypriots fled north. Eventually, in 1983, Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared their independence and established the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which today is only recognized by Turkey (Housden 2004). Turkish troops still maintain a sizeable presence on the island to this day (Reuters 2008).

Ever since 1974, there has been a series of failed plans and initiatives to negotiate an agreement to reunify the island, mostly under the guidance of the UN. In 2004, United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, drafted the 2004 Annan Plan intending to reunify the island. The northern Turkish Cypriots accepted the Annan Plan with 64.9% voting in favor; however, 75.8% of Greek Cypriots rejected it. On May 1, 2004, Cyprus as a divided island was offered entry into

the European Union without resolving the conflict (Jenkins 2009). Following the Annan Plan, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat was elected the new Turkish-Cypriot leader in 2005 (BBC Cyprus Timeline 2009). With his election came a new effort for the reunification of the island and on July 8, 2006, both sides issued a joint statement committing to the resumption of negotiations.

In February 2008, Demetris Christofias won the election for president in the southern part of Cyprus and a new series of peace talks followed in September of that year (Jenkins 2009). The talks between Cypriot president Demetris Christofias and the Turkish-Cypriot president Mehmet Ali Talat began with a great deal of optimism. "There is a common will and a common desire and a common effort to achieve this target," Christofias stated in reference to the peace process (BBC 2008). These leaders achieved some significant progress including the opening of several crossings of the Green Line.

However, in April 2009, parliamentary elections took place in the northern part of Cyprus shifting power from Mr. Talat's party, the Republican Turkish Party to the National Unity Party. The National Unity Party favors a two-state settlement rather than the federal model which was being discussed between Mr. Christofias and Mr. Talat (Hadjicostis 2009).

Negotiations have continued with periodic interruptions to the present. Beginning in 2015, a hopeful negotiation period developed between leaders Nicos Anastasiades, president of the Republic of Cyprus and Mustafa Akinci, president of the northern part of Cyprus, but these collapsed in July 2017.

Cyprus remains a divided island, with the Turkish-speaking community in the northern part of island and the larger Greek-speaking community in the southern part, separated by UN Peacekeepers. Each community has its own version of history and is familiar with the suffering that it has experienced at the hands of the other. There is a serious divide and contact

between the two communities is still limited. Teens in each community, indeed anyone born after 1974, have grown up with little, if any, contact with anyone from the other community.

Even those teens willing to explore a friendship with a teen from the other community have little ability to do so. While it is possible to pass through one of the few checkpoint crossings

separating them, when they do, they enter a land that uses a different language, where they know many are unfriendly to them. Their cellphones do not work on the other side. And, they have no place to go where they know there will be counterparts from the other side who might have an interest in meeting them. So, CFP provides a rare, safe opportunity for them to meet one another.

THE CYPRIOT TEENS & THEIR COMMUNITIES

CFP teens are chosen equally from both communities. CFP teens are selected from the full spectrum of economic backgrounds.

All of the teens have been affected in some way by the civil unrest and tension of the 1963 and 1974 events. Some of the teens have “missing relatives” from the 1974 war.

Since the island is divided by the Green Line, the two communities spend their free time mostly within their own community. However, many people cross the borders every day. Nearly all children attend school in their own community. While the formally used language in the northern part of Cyprus is Turkish and in the southern part is Greek, many Cypriots can communicate well in English.

Thus, there have been two different cultures since 1974 with minimal interaction.

Schooling in Cyprus

Both communities have their own public and private schools.

In the last year of primary school, children take tests to determine which post-primary school they will attend, either a high school or a technical school. At age 18 all pupils take exams in a wide choice of subjects such as A-levels at their existing school or have private lessons to get prepared for A-levels.

Students apply to universities during their final year of school and are told by the university what A-Level results must be achieved for acceptance. A-Level exams are taken at the end of May and in early June.

Many Greek Cypriot students pass the exams and enter universities in Greece or in Cyprus, or they may go abroad, usually to the UK or the U.S. Turkish Cypriots enter universities in Turkey or in Northern Cyprus, or similarly they may go to the UK or U.S.

Depending upon the age of your teens and their school program, you may have teens entering their final A-level year with very important exams facing them in the spring.

BEFORE THE TEENS ARRIVE

Pre-summer Teen Activities

The CFP coordinators in Cyprus hold multiple meetings with the teens from March to June before their trip to the U.S. These meetings are designed to be both social and community oriented. At least one of the meetings includes the teens and their families. Before the trip to the U.S., the CFP Executive Director or another U.S. CFP Officer attends and participates in a briefing of teens and parents before the teens travel to the U.S. At this briefing, an overview of American life is presented, the program concept is reinforced, rules of conduct are restated, and any last-minute questions are answered.

Your teens were paired in March (by selecting their own partners) and, when possible, they have visited each other's homes, which involve crossing the border. They are participating in CFP sponsored activities in Cyprus. The friendship has started before they arrive in the U.S., or at least it has been determined by both the teens and the Cypriot coordinators to have a viable chance of forming.

Language

Be sensitive to biased references to Cyprus. Perhaps the most neutral way to refer to Cyprus is as *the northern part of Cyprus and the southern part of Cyprus*.

The teens view themselves as *Greek Cypriots or Greek-speaking Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots or Turkish-speaking Cypriots*. **Avoid the terms "Greek" or Turk" in referring to them or their families.**

Cities in Cyprus can have three names: Greek, Turkish and English. Try to refer to Cyprus cities with the English terminology used by tourists such as NICOSIA, KYRENIA, FAMAGUSTA, LIMASSOL, and PAFOS.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriots use many English words due to the fact that Cyprus was a British colony for many years. So when they say football, they all understand soccer. Both sides have their own teams that they support.

CFP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Creating Friendships for Peace (CFP) provides homestay experiences with American families for pairs of teens from the Middle East. With our coordinators, we will provide opportunities for the teen friendships developed in the U.S. to continue and extend these friendships to the teens' friends and families, as we do in Cyprus and have done in Northern Ireland.

A Very Brief Introduction to The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict

Prepared by Jerusalem Peacebuilders

The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict began with the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. This is very much a modern conflict of two peoples over the place of Jerusalem and the surrounding lands in their national determination. However, its roots lie in the nationalist and imperial forces of Europe and the Middle East during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Its seventy-one year history of endemic fear and failed negotiations demonstrate that the Israeli – Palestinian Conflict is at least as much about national identity as it is about security, resources and political ambitions.

Roots, 1897 – 1947: The steady expansion of European imperialism in the 19th and early 20th centuries ironically scattered the seeds of nationalism at home and in the Middle East. The Zionist Movement for the creation of a Jewish homeland and the Arab Nationalism for Arab national self-determination capitalized on the goals and vulnerabilities of Britain's strategic interests in the Suez Canal and occupation of formerly Ottoman Palestine (1918 – 1948). Britain's 1916 McMahon Correspondence that offered an Arab homeland in Palestine, its 1917 Balfour Declaration that promised a Jewish homeland in Palestine, and its 1923 Mandate that created an imperial base in Palestine together unleashed powerful centrifugal forces. The repeated clashes of the 1920s, the Arab Revolt of 1936 – 1939 and the White Papers of the League of Nations all expressed local and

international dissatisfaction with the then status quo. Only WWII and the Holocaust would shatter the impasse.

Wars, 1947 – 2019: WWII left Britain victorious but too exhausted to maintain order between the Arab majority and Jewish minority in Mandate Palestine. The tense situation was further complicated by the arrival of thousands of Jewish Holocaust survivors and displaced European Jews seeking safety. An Arab – Jewish civil war and accompanying atrocities rapidly ensued. With the creation of Israel on 14 May 1948, fighting only intensified and Arab forces from the region joined the fight against the Jewish state. The Israeli victory proved a defining glory for Israeli Jews and a defining tragedy for Palestinian Christians and Muslims. More fighting followed: 1956 Suez Crisis, 1967 Six-Day War, 1973 October War, 1982 Lebanese War, 1987 Intifada, 2000 Intifada, 2006 Lebanese War, and 2014 Gaza War. After 1967, Israeli forces and settlers occupied the Palestinian territories of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Yet, neither consistent Israeli victories nor regular international condemnation resolved the situation. This is partially due to another sort of occupation – the manipulation of the conflict by the Americans and Soviets for their own strategic objectives during the Cold War (1947 – 1991).

Peace Initiatives, 1947 – The Present: The fledgling UN offered its first peace plan for the conflict on 29 November 1947. It was the first of a number of attempts at a two state solution. The UN plan was followed by innumerable other plans authored by various entities and persons, e.g. the Madrid Conference, Bush Roadmap, the

Geneva Plan. All involve the direct antagonists along with regional actors like Egypt and Jordan as well as extra-territorial actors like the United States and Russia. Only three proved effective: the 1978 Camp David Accords that led to the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Agreement, the 1994 Israeli-Jordanian Peace Agreement and the 1993 Oslo Accords, with the latter eventually collapsing. From the many peace and partition plans, two possible goals emerge: 1) A “One State Solution” where Arabs and Jews live together equally in one democratic state; or 2) A “Two State Solution” where the territory is divided between two sovereign Israeli and Palestinian states. Two approaches to peace also emerge: 1) direct but brokered negotiations between antagonists, e.g. Oslo; and 2) peace-by-piece negotiations whereby agreements remove additional combatants and exacerbating factors, theoretically simplifying the context for Israelis and Palestinians to resolve, e.g. Camp David with Egypt and the Jordanian Accords. Today, Hamas – Israeli peace negotiations remain at a standstill.

The Future: Field experience bears out the claims of academic literature that while only

politicians can sign peace treaties, only ordinary citizens can create and maintain the positive social environment essential for peace. However, neither of the above-mentioned peace agreements nor Oslo ever put enough into People2People activities. Instead, conflict and trauma have become acculturated into essential elements of personal and group Israeli and Palestinian identities. Chosen traumas and chosen glories now animate societal behavior and reinforce mutual fear. At the center stands Jerusalem. For the majority of both peoples, Jerusalem and the land are essential elements of their spiritual, psychological, emotional and national identity. Without possessing them exclusively, Israelis and Palestinians feel that they cannot honor their heritage or fully be themselves. Thus, the drives to possess the Holy City and the land appear less tied to the means of economic production or security than to issues of national identity. Yet, these core identity symbols are physical realities. They must unavoidably be part of any eventual bi-communal arrangement. Therefore, Israeli and Palestinian identities are *negotiated* identities. Therein lies hope for peace.

DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR KOSHER AND HALAL COOKING

Acceptable Foods	Prohibited Foods
Meat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cattle ● Sheep ● Goats ● Deer 	Meat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pork ● Horse ● Camel ● Rabbit
Birds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chicken ● Duck ● Turkey ● Goose ● Pigeon 	
Fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anchovies ● Bluefish ● Flounder ● Fluke ● Haddock ● Halibut ● Herring ● Mackerel ● Red Snapper ● Salmon ● Sardines ● Sea Bass ● Sole ● Trout ● Tuna ● Whitefish 	Fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shellfish ● Eels ● Shark ● Monkfish ● Huss ● Catfish
Eggs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All eggs with no blood spots 	
Milk and Cheese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All U.S. milk, yoghurt and cream ● Cheeses include mozzarella, feta, goat cheese and all rennet free cheeses (Cabot's Cheddar Cheese is one) (Look for kosher label or rennet free.) 	Cheese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any cheese containing rennet (an animal enzyme product)
Fruits and Vegetables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All are acceptable but must be cleaned to remove any insects 	
Grains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All grains are acceptable, except during Passover 	
Cooking Oils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All cooking oils extracted from fruits, seeds, grains and nuts with a kosher label 	
Processed Foods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All processed foods, including bread, baked goods, cereal and pasta, with a kosher label 	

KOSHER ONLY FOOD PREPARATION RULES

- All vegetarian, egg, fish, dairy dishes are fine and can be served as usual on normal plates and cutlery.
- All eggs and fish can be served anytime and in conjunction with meat.
- **When serving meat, no dairy products can be used** i.e.: cheese, butter, ice cream or dairy for dessert etc. **at that meal.**
- When kosher meat is served, it must be handled elsewhere than in your kitchen where you have been serving the other food types. One way to deal with this is by having the meat sealed in the fridge and putting it directly on the grill. You can kosher your grill by burning it with nothing on it at high for 20 min. and cleaning your grill top in the dishwasher. Any dishes that come into contact with the meat must be cleaned outside your kitchen and reserved for use with meat while the kids are living with you.
- When serving meat, you must use paper plates, plastic cutlery and dispose of them immediately in the garbage after eating.

BACKGROUND OF CFP



Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc.

Creating Friendships for Peace began as the successful all-volunteer Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc. American, Peggy Barrett, with support from her husband, Jack, founded CFPNI in 1987 based upon the simple vision that the divisions in Northern Ireland could only be overcome by building understanding, trust, and friendships between the teenaged leaders of the future from the two communities. Friendships would be supported by Americans who would host a cross-community pair of teens and who would continue to support their friendships in the future.

CFPNI ended after the summer of 2007, only because the situation in Northern Ireland had improved to such a degree that bringing teens from the two communities to the U.S. was no longer needed for them to build friendships. Over its 21 years, CFPNI brought teens from more than 2,000 different families in Northern Ireland and hosted them in about two-dozen different areas of the United States. An enormous network of friendships that were formed through the program remains today.

Several of CFP host families and U.S. coordinators were active in CFPNI. Peggy's vision lives on, and she had a chance to meet all the 2009 CFP teens, when they were in the U.S.



HasNa, Inc.

When CFP's volunteers sought another divided country, they chose Cyprus and were fortunate to obtain the support of HasNa, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. HasNa promotes understanding and economic empowerment in culturally divided areas of the world and encourages individuals and communities in such areas to work together toward peaceful coexistence. More information about HasNa may be found at hasna.org.

HasNa began the Cyprus Friendship Program in January 2009 as a two year pilot program. In the summer of 2009, 10 pairs of teens were hosted in the Washington, DC area. In 2010, the program had seven pairs in the DC area and two pairs in New Hampshire. In 2011, the first year of the official program, CFP hosted thirty pairs of teens in seven states: New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, and Oregon.



Cyprus Friendship Program

In 2012, through a mutual agreement between the boards of both HasNa and the Cyprus Friendship Program, we became our own 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We remain grateful to

HasNa for sharing and supporting the vision of the Cyprus Friendship Program.

In 2018 we began a partnership with the Jerusalem Peacebuilders program to enhance their already successful program by offering a 2 week homestay to pairs of their Israeli/Palestinian teens. This was the first time CFP was working in two divided communities simultaneously. This initial pilot program proved successful and in 2019 CFP began including both Cypriot teen pairs and Jerusalem teen pairs in the same U.S. hosting areas, providing opportunities for them to learn from each other and become better global citizens. CFP changed it's name from Cyprus Friendship

Program, Inc. to Creating Friendships for Peace, Inc. in order to better describe its broader outreach.



**Creating Friendships for
Peace, Inc.**

The CFP Child Abuse Policy Guidelines and Procedures

CFP is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of all the youth participating in the program. CFP has officially adopted the following child abuse guidelines and procedures.

Definition:

Child abuse refers to any act committed by a parent, caregiver or person in a position of trust (even though he/she may not care for the child on a daily basis) to a person who is less than eighteen years of age, which is not accidental and which harms or threatens to harm a child's physical or mental health or welfare.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse:

Physical abuse includes physical injury, threat of injury or creation of a real and significant danger of substantial risk of death, disfigurement or of bodily functions. Such injury or threat of injury, regardless of intent, is inflicted or allowed to be inflicted by non-accidental means. Examples include but are not limited to: asphyxiation; bone fracture; brain damage; skull fracture; subdural hematoma; burns and scald injury; cuts; bruises; welts; abrasions; internal injuries; poisoning; sprains; dislocations; gunshot and stabbing wounds.

Physical Neglect:

Physical neglect includes the failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, or supervision for a child if the child's health or safety is endangered. Types of neglect include but are not limited to: abandonment; inadequate clothing; inadequate shelter; starvation and malnutrition.

Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse includes any act that is committed, or allowed to be committed, upon a child by a parent or other persons responsible for the child's care. Examples include but are not limited to: sexual exploitation; sexual molestation;

intercourse/sodomy and other sexual abuse.

Medical Neglect:

Refusal or failure by the caretaker to obtain and/or follow through with a complete regimen of medical, mental or dental care for a condition, which if untreated, could result in illness or developmental delays.

Mental Abuse:

A pattern of acts or omissions by the caretaker that result in harm to a child's psychological or emotional health.

Bizarre Discipline:

Any action in which the caretaker uses eccentric, irrational or grossly inappropriate procedures or devices to modify the child's behavior.

In an effort to create the safest possible environment within our program, several abuse prevention measures will be utilized. These measures include:

1. New Host Family Screening and Approval

- A full application will be filled out by new host family adults that will include a check off space where each adult will agree or not agree to a criminal and sexual offenders background check.
- All applications where any host family adult refuses to have a police check will be automatically eliminated from the program.
- Each host family will write a letter of introduction to be reviewed by the Director and CFP Coordinators.
- Each new host family will have three (3) letters of reference sent to CFP directly from the reference individuals/families.
- Each new host family will be visited by an Area Coordinator.

2. Criminal & Sexual Offenders Background Check

- Each CFP officer and coordinator in the U.S. and in CFP program countries and each adult member of a new host family household will submit to a criminal and sexual offenders background check.
- Background Checks will be reviewed by a designated CFP officer and any potential problems discussed with the Director.
- Any applicant with a record of physical, sexual or mental abuse, or violent criminal behavior will be eliminated from consideration.

3. Teens in the U.S.

- Each Cypriot youth will be given phone numbers for the youth to call with concerns and problems.
- There will be a male CFP officer for males to call:
William "Bo" Dean
New Hampshire Area Coordinator
603-582-5449

- There will be a female CFP officer for females to call:
Betsy Small
Executive Director
603.769.9383

4. Briefing for Youth and Families

- The Executive Director or designee, will explain the emergency contacts at a meeting for all youth and parents in the home country, and will explain to all the youth how and when to use them.

5. Reporting Abuse:

- Youth should report any allegation of abuse to one of the two CFP officers designated by CFP while in the U.S.
- While in their home countries, concerned youth or adults should report any allegation of abuse by CFP coordinators there to the U.S. coordinators.
- The Officers and the Director will follow CFP's established follow-up procedures to respond to any allegation(s)