

Dear Friends of Interchange

AS my introductory comments in the last IIC Info News were somewhat lengthily, I will keep these short . Trusting that this email finds all you in good spirits and health and that things in your private life are unfolding as you wish. I also wish that the CISV part of your life is going well and that your LICs are starting to organize the ICs that begin in 2003.

In this part of the world, Southern Ontario - Canada, the changing of the seasons from summer to winter is in full swing. The maple tree leaves have gone through about 75% of their colour change from green to red-orange-yellow-gold. For me it is a wonderful time of year. When the sun shines down on the trees it is as if it set them on fire - the colours are so alive. Wish you all could be here to experience it. Anyway, I digress..... back to 'business.

PLEASE SHARE THE INFORMATION IN
THIS NEWS LETTER WITH YOUR LICs

IN THIS ISSUE

1. Address Updates
2. Nov. 1 IC Confirmation Date
3. ICs in Risk Countries
4. Selection Process
5. Evaluations
6. Interchange & CISV on the Internet
7. Electronic Communication

1. ADDRESS UPDATES

The changes since the last IIC Info News has been very extensive. Therefore, instead of listing here, I will send out the address list under a separate email. Please review the list and advise of any changes - I think I got them all. please note that email address to NICs are also listed above.

2. NOVEMBER 1 CONFIRMATION DATE

Please advise the IIC (and only IIC + partner chapter, of course) by NOVEMBER 1 if you intend to proceed with the Interchanges you were assigned from the AIM. If we do not hear from you by November 1, by default we will presume that your Interchange will take place.

Please advise IO , partner chapter and myself , by NOVEMBER 1, if you DO NOT INTENT TO PROCEED with the Interchange from the AIM. In your communication, please include a detailed explanation of why you do not wish to proceed with the IC.

Reasons that you should not accept from your LICs are:

- I do not have enough delegates - its too early to say
- I do not have a leader - its too early to say
- I do not like the chapter I am matched with

3. INTERCHANGES IN RISK COUNTRIES

I am sure that one of the things that many chapters & parents are now considering in their decision to participate in the Interchange programme or for that matter any other CISC programme is the safety issue of travelling to areas of risk. Ultimately, the decision to participate in an IC rests with the parents UNLESS the IC is cancelled, for insurance reasons, by either the NA or IO.

I know that the IC will start 10 months from now and that a lot can change in that time. However, now is the time where your chapters are starting to recruit for these ICs. As NICs you need to check your countries Travel Advisories and the position that your NA takes. You must then advise your chapters of your findings so that the parents can make a decision that they feel good about.

To give you some guidance, what follows is what the soon to be released "CISV Consolidated Guide" has to say about travel to countries with security concerns:

"C-8.3.2.1 Choosing the Host NA/Chapter

Security Concerns in the Host NA

What happens if there are security concerns in a country where a programme is planned? It is the IEC, representing the Board outside the AIM, which has the authority to determine whether or not a programme will be cancelled due to safety risks.

In making its decisions, the IEC seeks input from such sources as the Secretary General, the Programme Committees, CISVers in the host NAs and government travel advisories. Generally speaking, CISV recognises that the people on the spot are usually best suited to give a realistic assessment of the situation and can provide information on precautions to be taken. CISV relies on and trusts its local organisers to take all reasonable steps to create as safe a programme environment as possible.

It is important that NAs and CISVers understand CISV International's role and policy in making decisions relating to security concerns. The CISV policy has been in place for some time and is as follows:

Parental Decision About Travel To CISV Programmes In "Risk Areas"

Every year parents of CISV participants contact local or international CISV officials regarding CISV procedures to safeguard participants who have been selected to attend programmes in areas of the world with "local disturbances" receiving global press coverage. The following procedures outline CISV's efforts to assist parents make the decision about their child's participation:

1. CISV programme hosts are generally parents themselves and take the responsibility of hosting children / youth very seriously. They will be the first to cancel a CISV activity if it is not safe.
2. Hosting / travelling CISV Chapters observe selection procedures and are required to have a training programme for Adult Delegations / Staff.
3. Local public health standards are required for site facilities used by CISV participants, and 4. CISV International officials visit the site for countries hosting their first CISV programme; otherwise, National Association / Chapter officials make inspection visits if requested.
5. If there are concerns about the physical safety of visitors, CISV consults appropriate Embassy or Foreign Ministry officials.

6. On request, the CISV International Office contacts host Associations for details or reassurances; 7. CISV parents take the final decision regarding their child's travel.

Getting information on the general safety situation in host NAs and what security precautions will be taken for the programmes

CISV International generally monitors the situation in host countries with security concerns, by requesting information from local CISVers and by watching some of the government travel advisories.

CISV Programme Organisers in each country are very sensitive to people's concerns and understand that people need to feel confident of the organisers grasp of the situation and their ability to respond to it. Participating NAs with concerns are encouraged to contact the host NA so that it can respond to any specific queries directly.

The IEC and IO also monitor the government travel advisories. The following websites are helpful resources regarding travel advisories and can be consulted:

- www.fco.gov.uk/travel (UK);
- <http://travel.state.gov> (US);
- www.auswaertiges-amt.de (Germany);
- <http://voyage.dfait-maeci.gc.ca> (Canada); • www.dfat.gov.au (Australia);
- and • www.france.diplomatie.gov.fr (France).

In addition, www.gksoft.com/govt/en provides a list of all governments that are on the web.

Sending NAs are encouraged to visit these websites and it is highly recommend that they contact their own government travel advisories. "

ALSO, please advise your chapters of an option that is used quite often with countries that have internal turmoil. The option is for that country to travel first with the hope that in 16 or 22 months from now the risk has decreased to the point that parents will feel comfortable sending their children.

One thing that I want you and your chapters to strongly consider. DO NOT MAKE A HASTY DECISION. I know that the November 1 confirmation / 1st cancellation date is quickly approaching, but at this point in time say yes to the IC and leave a final decision for a month or two . For countries that are considered a safety risk, may I suggest that you contact each chapter you are matched with and raise their comfort level by giving them different information than what one will see on the television.

I know that as NICs you will all help your local chapters and parents to make the correct decision. If I can be of any help to you please do not hesitate.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

Now, having said all the above, lets turn to something positive and provide some assistance to your LICs. The entire selection process starts with an application form whether it be for the delegate or for the leader(s). Each country / chapter may have their own forms that they use & this is just great. However, as you know, the Delegate Application & Information forms

are used for matching and should therefore be somewhat consistent from country to country. Some version of the other forms must be used by your LICs in the selection process. The forms that are in general use for Interchange are as follows and are attached to this email.

(I) Delegate Application Form

(ii) Delegate Information Form

(iii) Parent Agreement Form - This is IMPORTANT and MUST be signed by the parents

(iv) Parent Interview Form - can be combined with a home visit or before.

It is recommended that any interviews be done by two CISV members that have had past Interchange experience

(vs.) Home Visit Form - A home visit prior to acceptance of the family / delegate MUST BE DONE.

The main purposes of the home visit is to:

- Meet the members of the family.
- Give the parents and applicant more personalized information about CISV and the Interchange.
- Note facilities being offered to the visiting delegate . Determine the families motivation, and commitment to the Interchange Programme As with parent interviews, it is strongly recommended that two people conduct the home visit. As Interchange is a family centred programme; during the home visit all members of the family must be present

(vi) Staff / Leader Application Forms & Staff / Leader Selection Checklist - these forms can be downloaded from the Internet at www.cisv.org/forms Note: Even though Junior Leaders under the age of 21 can not take on the responsibilities of a leader (See attached Guidelines for JL), all JLs MUST also complete Staff / Leader application Forms. Additional information about the selection of Interchange Leaders can be obtained from the National and / or International Leadership Training Committee(s).

5. EVALUATIONS

In the last IIC Info News we talked about evaluations for Interchange Programmes. Very few have sent them in and I thank you for them. You as NICs need to keep after the LICs to hand them in to you . Sometimes it is said of evaluations ' well who will look at them". I promise you that I will look at them and where necessary, appropriate action will be taken.

The evaluations are also shared in confidence with the NADT committee that is monitoring and reporting to the IEC the performance of all CISV programmes. If there are leadership issues involved, the ILTC will be advised. By making all concerned aware of the issues that Interchange faces, I would hope that with time some of our frustrations will diminish.

6. INTERCHANGE & CISV ON THE WEB

I am sure that all of you are aware that many forms and guidelines are now available to be downloaded from the internet. I hope that you have advised your LICs of the same. Please encourage your LICs to visit and explore these site:

www.cisv.org/forms.htm Health, Safety, Travel and other forms common to all programmes

www.cisv.org/guides.htm Interchange Family Guide for Parents and Educational Theme Manual for Interchange Leaders & LICs

www.cisv.org/infofile.htm These files contain "all the information that you wanted to know about CISV but were afraid to ask". One of the most important files is the BASIC RULES (File C-03) which all LICs must know. A 'Table of Contents' of all that is contained in the info files is attached and shown in A-1_Adoclist.pdf File.

<http://hamilton.phys.ntnu.no:8080/ludvigse/ilwc/activityDB/index.jsp>

Local

Work Interactive Activity Database of games, warm ups, ice breakers, simulations and much much more

7. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The External Relations Committee (ERC) has just released a guide on do's, don'ts and suggestions for electronic communications and transfer of delegate information using the internet. As this document is not available on the internet, I will send this document to you under separate email. Please read it..... AND..... send it to your LICs.....OR..... give your LICs a summary of what relates to IC and your country.

Till the next time, stay well -- AND speaking of the next time.. in the next issue of IIC Info News I will share with you the results of the IC Clinics conducted at this years AIM and hopefully I will be able to share some aspects of the Evaluations.

TTFN

Yours in CISV

Heinz Boehnke - IIC Chair