



In this Issue:

Message from the IIC

Deadlines

Planning the host phase

Mini-Camp

“Clubbing”

Police Checks

PDPEFs—Getting an
Early Start

Address Lists

Friends Registration

Interchange workshop
In Thailand

Message from the IIC

Welcome to a new issue of our newsletter we hope you continue to enjoy reading and finding useful information to help you hold great Interchanges.

Have you ever heard the phrase “stop and smell the flowers”? Many beautiful and interesting things surround us everyday. But life keeps on going faster and faster, and sometimes we forget to take some time, stop and look around. The IIC invites you to stop, take a few minutes of your time, smell the flowers of your culture and share them with us.

In May, we will start working on a new project about “Culturegrams”. The idea is that all NAs will share their flowers, characteristics about their culture and give their interchange partners more information to work with their delegations before the interchange starts.

By the way, in Costa Rica, May is also known as the month of the flowers, since it marks the beginning of the rainy season.

Cynthia Cañas, CRC (Chair)

Deadlines

TIF (Travel Information Form) - sent to host chapter two months prior to travel

Matchbox Data Sheets - due to IO by June 1 (note: this form has been updated and will be distributed by ReCos, or can be downloaded at <http://resources.cisv.org> be sure to take

special note of the new Regions on page 3!

Health and Legal forms - make sure traveling delegations have completed these accurately; leader takes originals during travel

Planning the Host Phase

In this busy time of getting your delegations and their families trained and organized, we want to remind you that now it is the time to start using your PDPEF. The NIC or LIC must work with the leader and families to be sure the activities meet CISV’s educational goals for Interchange. These are found in Section 2 of the PDPEF.

Please refer also to the new Interchange Guide (IC-5.1.3 and IC-5.1.4) for details about planning the hosting program, along with sample calendars.

Keep it simple! Parents usually want to plan too much. Help them remember this is CISV’s Family-based program, not a camp; at least 2/3 of the time should be spent with the host family.

Mini-Camp

Please be sure your LIC, leader and families pay special attention to the description of a mini-camp in the new Guide (IC-5.1.3). Although the host chapter can choose to make the mini-camp overnight, it is not required, and no more than three days and two nights should be included (the mini-camp for a “Short” program is only two days and one

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optional overnight). If the host chapter chooses to do the mini-camp during two or three consecutive days, with delegates returning home to sleep at night, that is okay too. And don't forget the rule about having two additional adults (besides the leaders) present at all times during your Mini-Camp.

“Clubbing”

No, this is not a normal topic for CISV Interchange, and it should not be a normal practice either. Please be aware that at least two Incident Reports were filed last year because Interchange host families allowed delegates to go to bars and consume alcoholic beverages. In one country the youths were out until the middle of the night and required taxis to return to the host families' homes!

Please discuss with families that teenage “clubbing” is not acceptable in all cultures and should not be a part of the Interchange at all. Infofile R-7 on Behaviour and Cultural Sensitivity must be reviewed with all leaders, delegates and families, and conversations about the use of alcohol should take place before problems arise. Partner families should correspond with each other to feel comfortable about sending their children to each other, and this is one topic they should understand clearly.

Police Checks

Hopefully by now all NAs are complying with doing police checks on Leaders for

Interchange. This is required by CISV International.

However, IIC learned after the new updated version of the Guide was published, some NAs are experiencing challenges for host families' police checks. (At least we know you are reading the Guide, so we are very happy to know that!). We are currently gathering more information about police checks for host families. All NICs have been sent a survey to help us gather more information, so please respond and make your voice heard. If you did not get a survey, contact your friendly ReCo. IIC is collecting and analyzing the answers; you will receive more news on this topic in the next months.

For the 2009 interchanges, police checks of host family adults will not be required.

PDPEFs - Getting an Early Start

Wouldn't it be great at the end of your program to need only 5 minutes to submit your PDPEF to Jay at IO? That's the way it ought to be, and the secret is to start it *now*. Take 2 minutes and fill in the first page with your contact information. There! Wasn't that easy? Move on to page 2 and continue...

Look at all the pages where there is a **GREEN** bar. Those are parts that are done or organized *before* the hosting begins. Next will come the parts with **YELLOW** bars. The LIC should go ahead and type the answers to these sections in

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before the other delegation arrives, or in the first days of hosting.

Now take a special look at “Section 2 Education.” As your delegates and families meet with the leader and LIC to plan the hosting program, make sure they look at the Goals and Indicators (under the **PINK** bar). The LIC should type under “Evidence” the ways that the goals will be assessed. For example journal, poster, video, observation, presentation or some other simple thing that will tell if the delegates have met each goal. That’s all! Just one word on each line.

As the hosting progresses the LIC should type in the parts under **RED** bars, when the information is known. So by the time the hosting finishes, only 3 minutes are needed to fill in the parts under the **BLUE** bars. The leader and LIC should communicate often during hosting so the LIC does not have to make a special meeting after the hosting to get all the answers. The leader will tell where to type check-marks (√) in Section 2, since the LIC does not see the delegates regularly.

As always, if you have questions, ask your ReCo. We can even send you a sample of Section 2 filled in so you will see how easy it is. Please do not let this form and its 10 pages make you afraid—take it in small pieces and it will be ready before you can say “PDPEF!”

Address Lists

Each year Jay has difficulty getting a copy of everyone’s address list, and this continues to provide great puzzlement for her and the IIC. We know every delegation has a copy of all the kids’ names, addresses, phone numbers, emails and birthdays. Some even include much more information, like parent names and favorite foods or colors! When the list is ready, just send a copy to Jay, then you can forget about the deadline for doing it. And, your NA won’t have to see your reference number published every week for all the world to see!

Your ReCos will be writing you soon to start collecting Address Lists. We know that when you have bought plane tickets your delegation is complete, so you can send us their information.

Friends Registration

Each delegate, leader and junior leader should *already* be registered on the CISV Friends web site (<http://friends.cisv.org>) and should have *already* claimed their participation in their specific Interchange. LICs may also register. If the entire delegation has done this, that **Address List** can be created automatically so you won’t have to type it and email it to Jay!! Just ask your ReCo if you need help.

Eileen Weber (USA)

Interchange Workshop in Thailand

The Asia Pacific Region hosted last March the APRW (AP Regional Workshop) in Bangkok, Thailand. In the mornings several simultaneous workshops were held: Interchange, Mosaic, “TTT” (Training The Trainers), Risk Management and Summer Camp. In the afternoons general sessions were held dealing with Educational Themes.

An international workshop is the best way to enforce your CISV knowledge and to introduce someone new to CISV!

Eleven participants from Vietnam, China, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines gathered for 4 days to learn about how to administer successful interchanges, build new networks and learn about the importance of communication in an interchange.

Cynthia Cañas (CRC)

