

International Friendship Partner Information Sheet

Email JulesOsco@Aol.com with completed form

Or mail directly to Deborah Watson 513-702-9431 or email at dlwatson@cinci.rr.com

Volunteer page: www.ifiusa.org/listmanager/vol.htm

Registration: www.ifiusa.org/cincy/vol/regf.htm

One major felt need of an international student is friendship with local residents (U.S. Americans). Being a Friendship Partner is a wonderful opportunity to develop a relationship with someone from another culture.

When will this begin?

The largest number of partners is matched at the beginning of the Fall quarter at the University of Cincinnati, at the end of August or during September. However, students request friendship partners throughout the year. Usually we have a waiting list of students desiring local friendship partners, so in most cases you can be matched at any time of the year.

How will I be matched with a student?

After your application is approved, you will be contacted with the name, phone number and e-mail address of a student who has requested a friendship partner. You may then contact the student to set up a time to meet. Note that it is our practice to match an individual applicant with a student of the same gender. If you have a preference for a specific culture or area of study, you may indicate that at the time of your application and we will do our best to honor your request.

What if I am unable to contact the student?

Please do not give up after one call; try to reach the student several times at different times of day (remember college students often stay up late!). Often, the best way to contact a student is through e-mail if you have that available. If you are still unsuccessful after several attempts, contact Pat Durst (513-541-4192) so that she can either facilitate the contact or a reassignment to another student.

What is my commitment?

We encourage volunteers to make contact via e-mail or phone on a weekly basis, and plan to meet one time per month. Our hope is that you will establish a good friendship and that you would like to continue meeting with the student throughout his/her stay in the U.S.

Note: Training is required to be a Friendship Partner. Dates are to be determined

Do the students speak English?

Yes. They are taking classes at the University of Cincinnati or working (co-op) in the Cincinnati area. As a native speaker of English, you may help your student with another felt need (improving their English skills) by gently correcting their grammar and pronunciation, or introducing idioms.

What about sharing my faith?

Your commitment to the student should be that of unconditional friendship and love. Please be sensitive to the fact that students come from many different cultural and religious backgrounds and may have little or no previous exposure to Christianity. We anticipate that over time, you will build a relationship of trust, which would be an appropriate context for sharing spiritually. We ask that you not force spiritual discussion but be sensitive to the student and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. In many cases, the students are very open to such discussions. It is appropriate to include your faith naturally as it relates to your life experiences.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

in cooperation with International Visitors Council

You are cordially invited to participate in the University of Cincinnati International Friendship Program. As a participant in this program, you would serve as a local friend, someone with whom an international student could visit, enjoy an occasional meal, celebrate holidays, participate in community events, or just relax in conversation. This is an opportunity for international students to experience American life in a non-university setting and to learn first-hand about culture in the United States.

Generally, U.S. friends apply to be paired with one international student and these pairings have been quite successful. However, very often those friends who are matched with two or more students have a smoother time of getting acquainted, and they often have more enjoyable times together as the year progresses.

Once you have been paired with your international student(s), it is important to contact them promptly. Most students apply to be a part of this program with high expectations and may be disappointed if they do not hear from their friend. *If you would like to participate, please fill out the attached application and return it to IFI staff who will forward it to UC:*

You may email this to dlwatson@cinci.rr.com or register at www.ifiusa.org/cincy/vol/regf.htm or mail to:

International Friendships, Inc.
c/o Deborah Watson
10877 Lake Thames Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45242



Local Friend Application

1. Which group do you represent (how did you find out about this program)? **International Friendships, Inc.**
2. Name (family, given) Robertson, David Country of Birth USA

Are you applying as an individual or as part of a family? As an individual _____
3. Street Address 881 Yarger Drive Home Phone 513-231-5284

City Cincinnati _____ State OH Zip Code 45230 Work Phone 513629-1742

Email Address darobertson@fuse.net Church Hyde Park Community Methodist
4. How many students would you like to be matched with? 1
5. Would you prefer to be matched with the following?
Circle one: **male student(s)** **female student(s)** **Student with a family** **no preference**
6. Would you prefer to be matched with a student from a particular country/region?
Circle one: **yes** **no preference** If yes, which country/region? _____
7. Would you prefer to be paired with a student in a particular field of study?
Circle one: **yes** **no preference** If yes, which field of study? _____
8. Will you participate even if your preferences in regards to the student's gender and country of origin cannot be accommodated? Circle one: **yes** **no**
9. Would you prefer to be matched with a student of a particular age?
Circle one: **18-25** **26-30** **35 and above** **no preference**
10. Please circle any of your interests and/or hobbies: **Music (popular jazz classical)** **Theater** **Cooking**
Photography **Cards/Games** **Movies** **Museums** **Sports** (specify) tennis, golf _____

Other interests and/or hobbies: _____
11. What language(s) do you speak? Spanish, German, French What is your religious background? United Methodist _____
12. Please write one or two comments about why you want to participate in this program: I've lived abroad and know how lonely it can be. I'd like to make someone feel just a bit more at home and offer a Cincinnati welcome