



What Is Friendship Force?

1. Why is travel with the Friendship Force called a Journey?

Initially Friendship Force used the term "exchange" to describe when our members traveled to another club or when another club came to visit us. The word exchange came from our organization's early history when communities would exchange large delegations of citizen Ambassadors. In some cases, there could be several hundred-people traveling in each direction. We still use the word exchange to emphasize the cultural exchange that takes place when you become a temporary citizen for a few days, through our home hospitality program. We believe this gets you straight to the heart of a country and its people. However, we now use the term *Journey* to describe our travels to and from other clubs, since the *Journeys* are usually not reciprocal. FFI believes that the more transformational term, *Journey* is better suited to the amazing programs our members plan and experience.

2. What is an Inbound Journey?

Denver hosts another club, generally for one week for an international club, or five days for a USA club. Occasionally there can be a Stop Over Journey during which we host a club for two or three days when they are between Journeys, or returning to their home.

3. What is an Outbound Journey?

When our club members are hosted by another club, either internationally or domestically.

4. Who is an Ambassador?

A club member who is participating in a Journey to another country or state.

5. Who is a Journey Coordinator?

The club member who assumes responsibility for directing and coordinating the planning for either an inbound or outbound Journey. This is an individual who has applied and been approved by the Board to plan, organize and lead a group of Ambassadors.

6. What is a home stay, or home hospitality?

A Home Host is the club member who provides hospitality for an Ambassador in their own home by offering them a place to stay, breakfasts, and often a couple of dinners. The Home Host also is responsible for driving the Ambassadors to and from events. Home Hosts treat the Ambassadors the same as they would if they had a personal friend visiting them. Home hosting is the time during which the real power of diplomacy can be experienced during a Journey. You will be part of the family during your stay. Home hospitality is the *signature program* of Friendship Force. You will learn first-hand the difference between travel as a tourist and the experience of being a temporary citizen.

7. Who are Host families?

Host families are members or friends of Friendship Force in the host community. They are not paid to provide hosting, but do so because of their interest in getting to know ambassadors

from other countries. The role as a Host to Friendship Force Ambassadors carries with it a big responsibility. To a large extent their opinion of our country may be formed based on the experience they have while they are in your home and community. As a Host, it is your responsibility to provide your Ambassador/s with a secure environment and clean, comfortable accommodations. This does not mean that the accommodations need to be lavish.

8. Who is a Day Host?

Realizing that Home Hosts often have previous commitments, jobs, obligations and busy schedules or just need a little break, Friendship Force recommends the use of Day Hosts to assist and complement Home Hosts. These Day Hosts are Friendship Force members who are not able to Home Host, but want to be involved in the Journey. Day Hosts will be responsible for coordinating with Home Hosts to provide transportation to some of the planned activities, and for accompanying the Ambassadors to a place of interest.

9. Is there a typical itinerary?

Each Journey itinerary is unique, but the host club will have planned interesting activities for the entire group with a few free days. On these free days, you and your Host might visit areas in which you have a mutual interest, as well as spend time with your Host's family and friends.

10. What is a Small Group Dinner?

A small group dinner is a small, informal at-home party for one or two Ambassadors, plus their Home Hosts. The dinner is hosted at his/her own expense by a club member who is usually not home-hosting during the current Journey. Often Hosts plan a potluck which allows for a variety of foods to be made available, and for the expense to be shared. The Ambassador and Home Hosts are assigned to a specific home.

11. Must I belong to a Friendship Force Club to participate in an Journey?

Yes, you must; however, it does not have to be the club initiating the Journey. You may apply directly to the leader (Journey Coordinator) for any Journey listed in the FFI catalog. If accepted for the Journey, you may join the club closest to where you live or you may join the sponsoring club. If you live in a community where a club exists, you may want to consider joining that club, so you can participate in the ongoing programs that provide global understanding through friendship.

12. What do you mean by "apply" to go on a Journey?

Each Journey is led by an experienced Friendship Force Ambassador Coordinator. They will ask you to complete an application prior to considering you for participation as a Journey Ambassador. This application process ensures that travelers are physically able to make the Journey and that they are committed to the Friendship Force mission.

13. What Happens during an Outbound Journey?

Your **Ambassador Coordinator** will accompany your group and will be available throughout the Journey to solve housing, communication, medical or other problems, except those relative to any extension that you may arrange. You will be given the name, telephone number and e-mail contact of the Host's home where you will be staying.

- **Arriving and Meeting Your Host**

Upon arrival, be sure your Friendship Force name tag is worn and visible. Usually, no official activity will be planned for the first evening, since you will probably be tired from the long trip. You will probably spend a quiet evening getting to know your Host family.

- **Activities on an Outbound Journey**

As a visiting Ambassador, you are expected to participate in all the official Friendship Force events planned by the host club. These usually include a welcome evening, home dinners and a farewell party. The host club also will plan group activities, such as visits to local sites the club is particularly proud of showing to visitors. It would be disrespectful to decline participation other than for medical reasons. At times, there may be special events not covered by the Journey fee paid to the host club. These events are offered as an option for the visiting Ambassadors.

14. What does it mean to be committed to the FF mission?

Friendship Force International has a forty-year history of bringing people together in friendship across the barriers that separate people. We think of ourselves as "citizen ambassadors", each of us having the power to promote good relations at a personal level.