



Current Volunteer Opportunities at the Iowa International Center

International Visitor Programs

Home Hospitality (Dinner) Hosts

Have you always wanted to meet people from other countries, but haven't had the chance to travel? Here is your opportunity! Become a citizen diplomat by serving as a home hospitality (dinner) host for international visitors. With this program, you will pick up two (or more) visitors at their hotel and bring them to your home for a casual evening of conversation and sharing a meal, then return the visitors to their hotel at the end of the evening. Home Hospitality hosting is a great way for you to interact with international visitors and for international visitors to experience Iowa culture. Home Hospitality hosting opportunities are available year-round.

Homestay Hosts

Have an extra bedroom? Homestay hosting is an excellent opportunity to spend time with international visitors in your own home as you provide lodging during their Des Moines program. We have homestay hosting opportunities for as little as three days or as long as three weeks! Iowa International Center provides homestay hosting for approximately three programs per year, but we accept applications all year round. This is one of our most popular opportunities!

Explore Des Moines

Our international visitors are very busy during the professional portion of their schedules, and they certainly need their "down time". However, if a visiting group has an extra free night during their Des Moines visit (and will likely already have Home (dinner) Hospitality as part of their agenda on a different night), the Explore Des Moines program is a way for the visitors to see more of Des Moines. These are optional outings for the visitors, so there is no guarantee how many will want to participate. Explore Des Moines hosts and visitors meet in the hotel lobby at a designated time, discuss options for the evening, and then pair up based on interests. A meal should be included in the plan, but the visitors are expected to pay for their dinner. Popular options have been shopping, going to a restaurant outside of downtown, attending a high school event (music or sports), or a drive into the countryside. The only requirements of the volunteers are having a VERY flexible attitude and a willingness to provide transportation. Explore Des Moines outings generally last 2 to 3 hours, and these opportunities are available year-round.

Drivers

Have you always wondered what goes on behind closed doors in some of Des Moines' most successful companies and offices? Get a chance to sit in on professional meetings with international visitors as a volunteer driver. It's guaranteed that you'll learn something new! Volunteer drivers must have a valid driver's license and are subject to background checks. Iowa law requires drivers who are compensated for providing transportation to have a taxicab license; therefore, we cannot reimburse our volunteer drivers for their mileage. Driver opportunities are available year-round.

Professional Hosts

Take networking to a whole new level by sharing your professional knowledge with an international visitor who works in a similar or related field. By welcoming an international visitor into your office, you will have the chance to exchange knowledge with a leader in your field from another country, establish new contacts, and gain insight into another culture. Professional hosting opportunities are available in most industries and are available year-round.

Accessible English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

ESL Class Volunteer

Iowa International Center strives to reach new Iowans in locations where they live and gather with free English education opportunities. Volunteer opportunities include assisting students in the classroom and transporting students on field trips. Class times vary and volunteer opportunities may be customized based on previous experience in ESL programming.

Miscellaneous Ongoing Needs

Office/ Administrative Volunteer

Iowa International Center thrives in large part due to the support of its excellent office/support staff volunteers. If you are experienced with Microsoft Office, website creation/management, financial software, or the Adobe suite of products, consider volunteering in our office.

Special Events Volunteer

We also have several special events throughout the year that require extensive volunteer support. Please check out www.iowainternationalcenter.org to learn about these opportunities.

Please contact Janet Norton, International Programs and Volunteer Manager,
if you are interested in any of these opportunities!

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