

Intercultural HF Workshop or Cluster Meeting: “Meet Your Global Neighbor”

Au pairs love to share their culture! *They're so proud to help us learn something about their country and traditions.*

Counselors can structure several events that will allow the au pairs to highlight their culture with Americans as well as with the other au pairs in the cluster: the HF Workshop and Cluster Meetings offer perfect opportunities!

WHAT IS “MEET YOUR GLOBAL NEIGHBOR?”

For many years, Au Pairs have been visiting their host children's classrooms in order to teach the children something about their country. The au pairs design informal presentations in which they share something about their culture with the kids. Forming positive first impressions of people from other countries is the primary goal.

Now, we'd like host families and au pairs to have the same experience; we'd like them to gather together to learn about more than their own AP's culture. The au pairs can participate individually or in a group.

PREPARING A GLOBAL AWARENESS PRESENTATION FOR A HF WORKSHOP:

The CC divides APs according to nationality. Each group (country) develops an idea for a presentation, which they'll do at a HF Workshop. Some ideas are:

1. language lesson-APs develop a lesson based on ages of children
2. a children's game or story-APs must prepare background explanation for the kids
3. tri-fold board with artifacts
4. See GA document, “What is a Global Awareness presentation” for more ideas

CC sends invitations to HFs. A “Save the Date” should be sent as far in advance as possible and the invitation should go out one month before with a reminder email a couple days before. The invitation should tell a little about what the au pairs are going to do

On the evening or day of the event, the CC gives an introduction about the value of cultural exchange and how all the HFs are participating in a very meaningful relationship. Introduce the countries and au pairs who will be presenting and ask them to hold questions till the end.

The Au Pair in America cultural exchange experience is not only the au pair learning about the U.S. and the host family learning about their au pair's country. This is the perfect opportunity to learn about all the different cultures in the cluster! Au pairs make friends with other young women from around the world, and the host families meet all of their au pair's friends, so they too are exposed to many different cultures.

CC takes photos for blog.

