



# Sending 201: Tending your AFS Garden

Please join the call by  
calling  
1-800-477-5644  
ext. 5550



*Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures*

# What We'll Cover

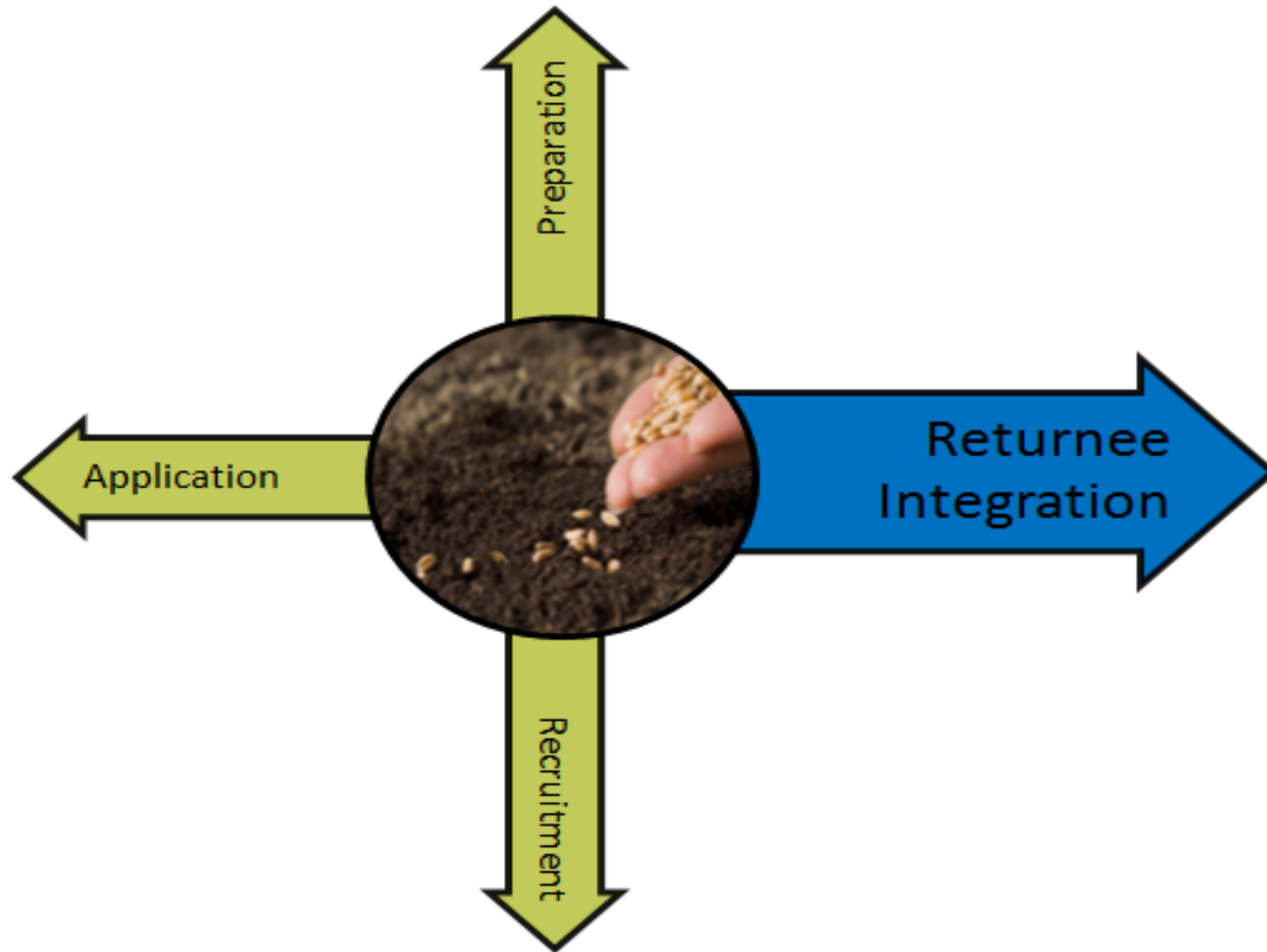
- Introductions
- The Sending Process
- Volunteer roles in sending
- Key resources

# Introductions

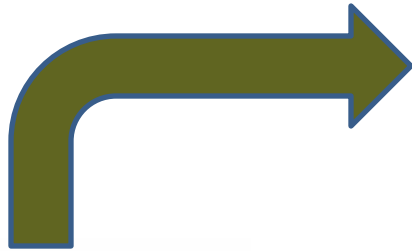


- Name, Area
- Share why you volunteer at AFS
- What are some of the things you have done as a sending volunteer?
- What would you like to learn today?

# The AFS Sending Cycle



# Tending your AFS Garden: the AFS Sending Process



2. Watering seedlings  
(application)



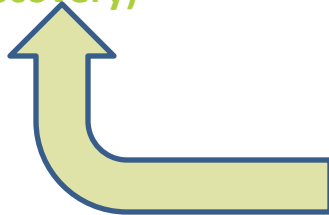
3. Harvest time  
(preparation)



4. Sowing seeds for next season (returnee integration)

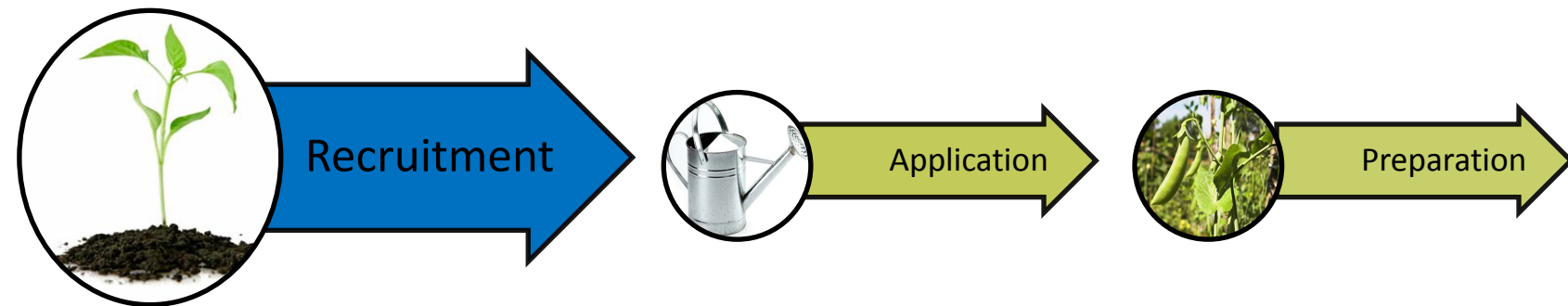


1. Planting seeds  
(discovery)



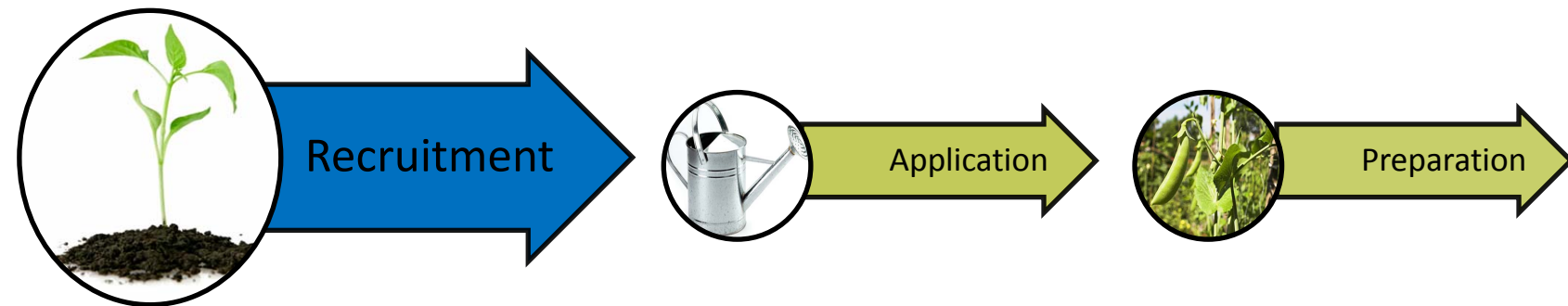
# Discovery

- School Presentations
- Volunteers
- Returnees
- Teachers
- <http://www.afsusa.org/>
- <http://afsblog.org/>
- [Ask an AFSer](#)



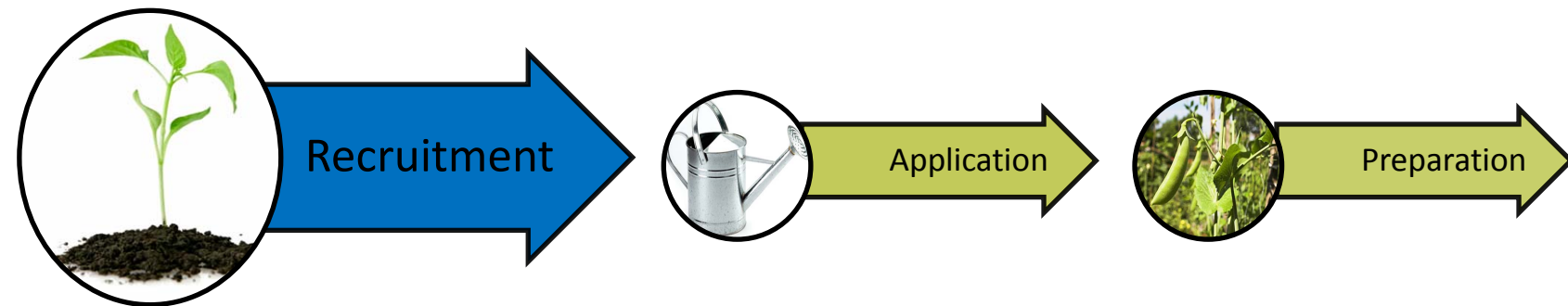
# Planting Seeds

- Network with community and intercultural organizations
- Tabling community and cultural events
- Represent AFS at College Fairs
- Outreach to Schools
- Emails and phone calls to leads
- Hold local Info Nights



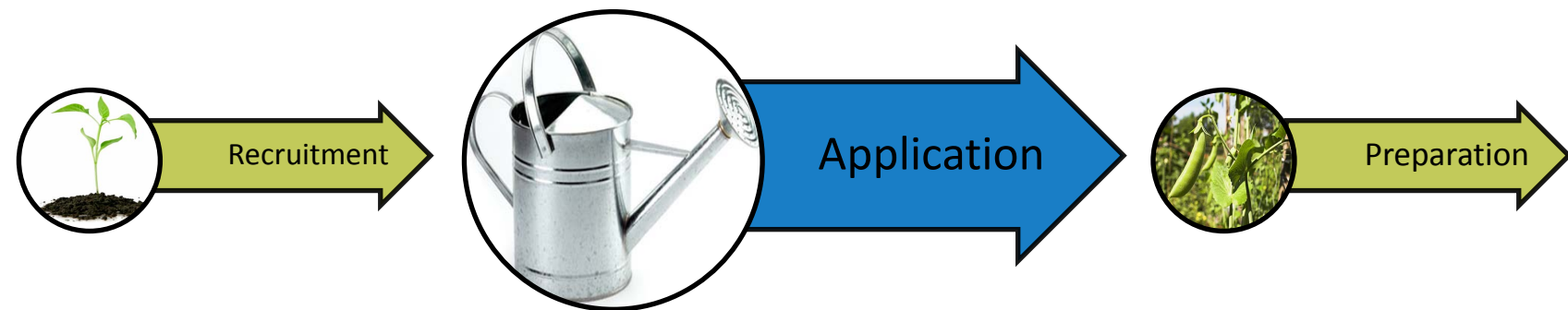
# School Outreach

- Best Practices for School Presentations
- Customizable School Presentation Powerpoint
- Keeping Students Engaged (involve a returnee or hosted student)
- Collecting information from interested students



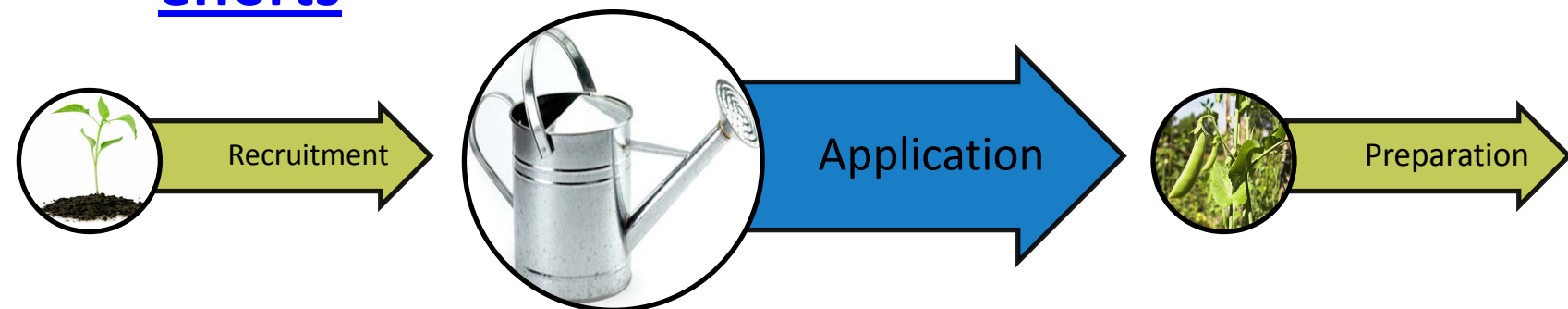
# Applying to Study Abroad

- Submit a \$75 Preliminary Application
- Work with volunteers to complete application.
- Apply for scholarships
- In person interview
- Submit completed app and pay \$900 deposit



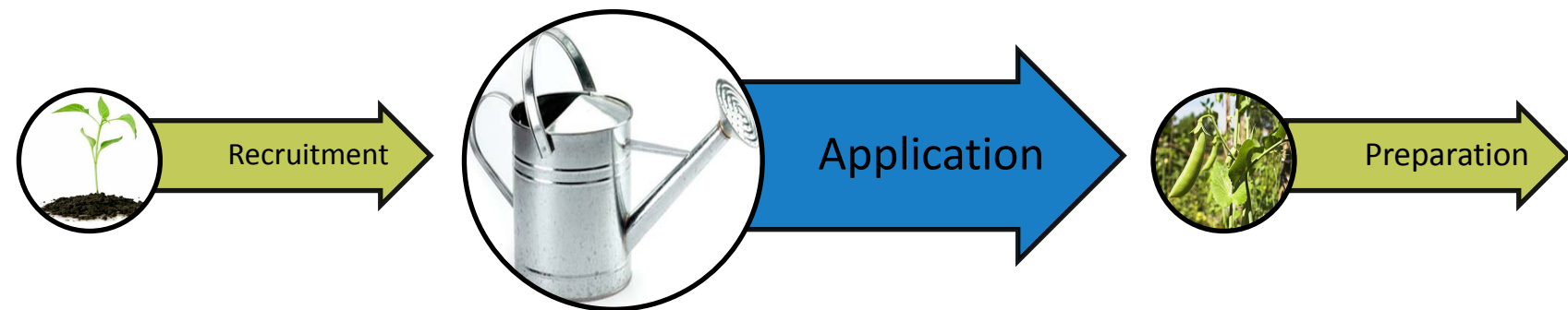
# Nurturing Seedlings

- Check-in with applicants
- In-home Interviews
- Help to set realistic expectations
- Encourage online info session attendance
- Hold local Info Nights for students and families
- Invite students to local AFS events, hosted student and returnee events
- Encourage scholarship applications and fundraising efforts



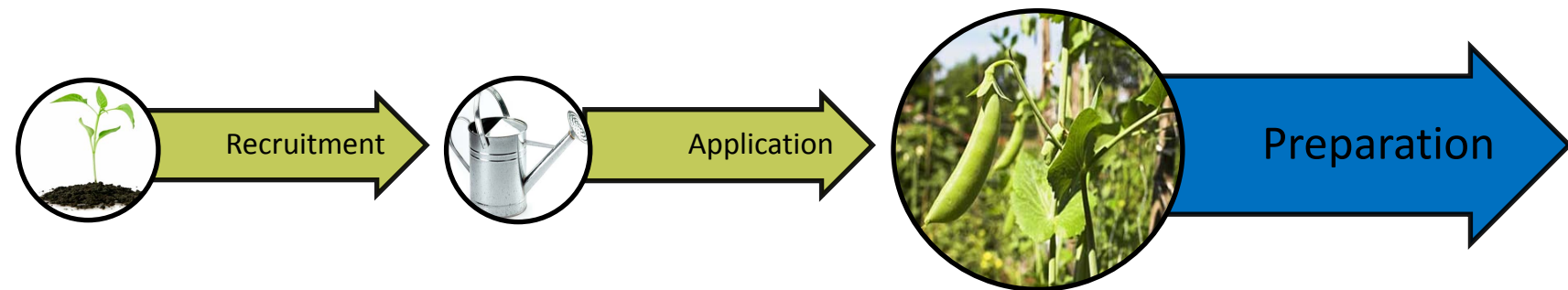
# Interviewing Students

- Be a mentor
- Complete the training module in Global Link
- Use the Sending Interview Packet
- The Sending Interview Form
- Looking at a student's application in Global Link



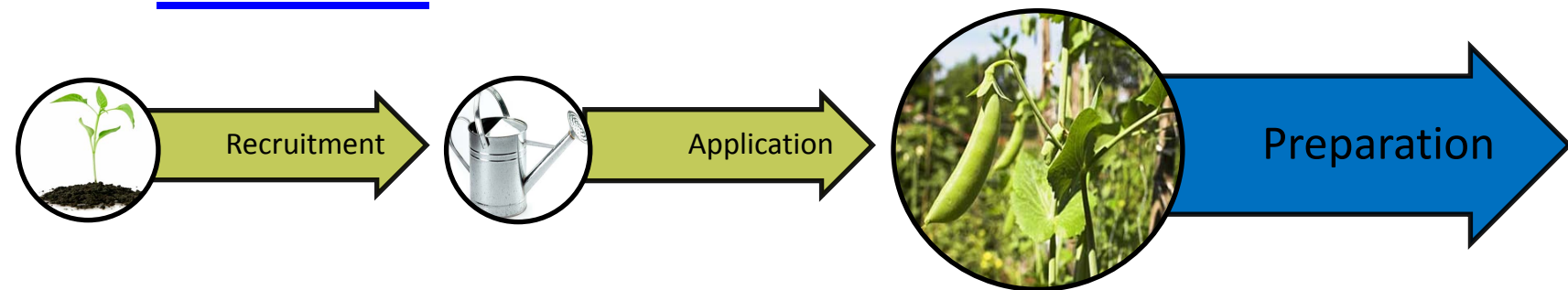
# Getting Ready to Go!

- Pre-departure orientation, culture trek
- Fundraising
- Payment (due 60 days before departure)
- Host Family (Received at any point between acceptance and 2 weeks prior to departure).
- Visa/Travel docs 1-3 months prior to departure



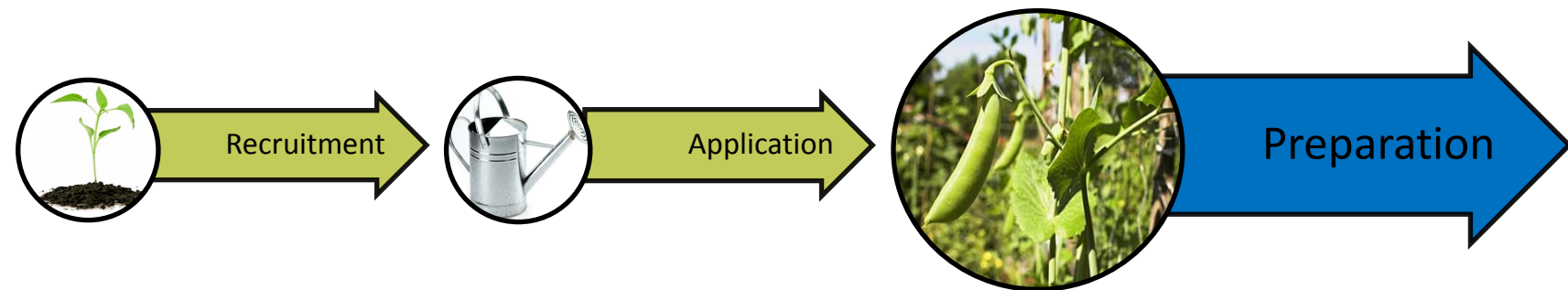
# Harvest Time: Retention through Departure

- Check-in with families preparing for departure
- Support student fundraising efforts
- Offer tips on living abroad: packing, banking, getting to know host family
- Pre-departure and Gateway Orientations
- Integrate returnees into local projects and activities



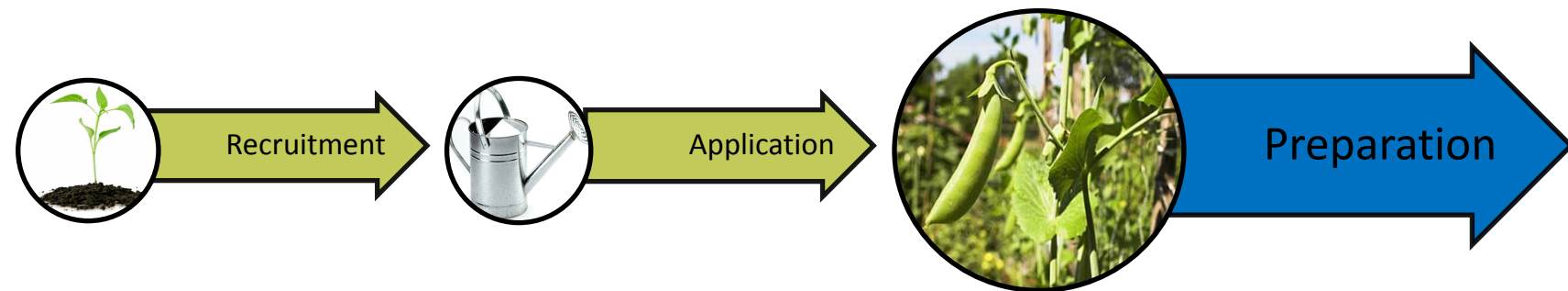
# Retention Calls

- Pull a list of students from Global Link
- Review the Common Retention Questions on the AFS wiki
- Talking points for retention calls
- Make a note about the call in Global Link



# Travel and Logistics

- General travel information to share at your PDOs (use as a reference, don't hand it out to students/ families)
- Bulletins included in the Travel Notifications that are emailed to all participants.
- List of travel dates for returning participants.
- Step by step guide explaining PR and PRTN
  - PR –Is a Program Release: student completes the program, but does not return on group ticket
  - PRTN: Early return for personal reasons: Student leaves the program for personal reasons

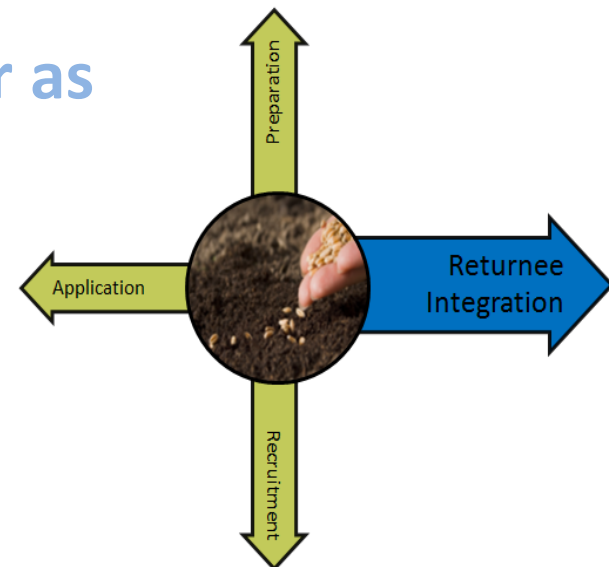


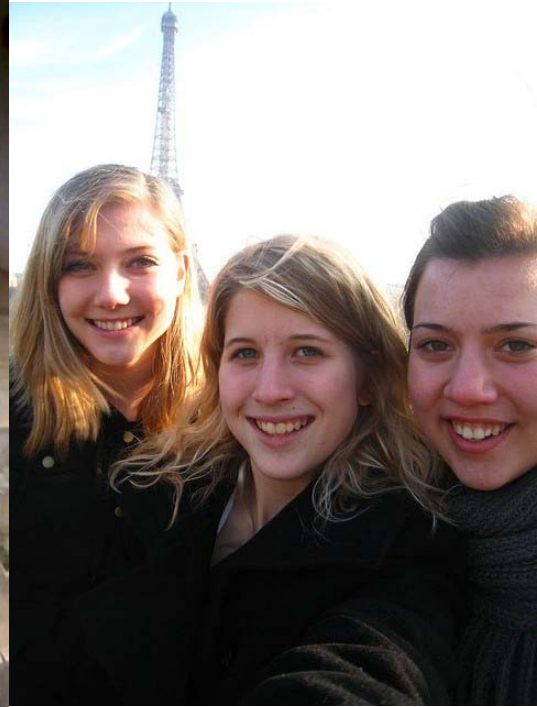
# Sowing the Seeds for Next Season



## Integrating Returnees: A Recipe for Success

- Host a Welcome-back Dinner or Event
- Reach out to scholarship recipients—they've agreed to help spread the word about AFS
- Remind college-age returnees that they can still volunteer while away at school
- Encourage returnees to register as as volunteers
- Tap into their enthusiasm for high-energy projects
- Remember: Returnees are the future!





**Thank you for all that you do as  
an AFS Volunteer!**