

AFS LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Personal Development

- **To think creatively.** Placed in a family and culture with different values and traditions, the participant needs to constantly analyze the situation and respond appropriately, recognizing that there are many ways to view a situation, different concerns, and often more than one solution to a problem. A positive result requires thoughtful, creative thinking.
- **To resolve conflicts.** Commit to resolving problems from a win-win perspective, realizing that maintaining good relationships is the goal.
- **To accept responsibility for oneself,** demonstrated by increasing maturity, self-control and accountability.
- **To be more aware of oneself,** demonstrated by increased willingness and ability to view one's strengths and weaknesses objectively and to see oneself as deeply influenced by one's native culture.
- **To feel confidence in one's self worth and abilities,** demonstrated by the willingness to participate joyfully and wholeheartedly in many varieties of social gatherings including presentations in front of a group.
- **To define self in terms of ideals and values rather than economic status,** developing personal goals considering relationships, knowledge, skills and character as more important than possessions.
- **To succeed in different academic settings,** demonstrated by achieving good grades in a different school system with different teaching methods.

Interpersonal Relationships

- **To adapt to new environments,** showing the ability to successfully adapt to a different family and culture, adjusting to new social situations and people.
- **To communicate in a different language,** demonstrated by the ability to carry on extended conversations with hosts in their native language, and by the ability to use and react to non-verbal signals common in the host culture.
- **To build intercultural friendships,** learning how to make friends in unfamiliar environments by actively seeking new relationships through shared experiences with people of different backgrounds and cultures.
- **To deepen concern for and sensitivity to others,** shown by increased ability and willingness to "put oneself in the other person's place", that is, to empathize.
- **To value human diversity,** seeing differences as a source of strength, rather than a threat, demonstrated by an eagerness for communications and friendships with others from different ethnic, racial, religious and generational communities.
- **To show appreciation,** demonstrated by recognizing the support, interaction and interest of others in ways appropriate to the situation and culture.

Intercultural Knowledge

- **To increase knowledge of the host country and culture**, demonstrated by an interest in, and understanding of, the key attributes and hidden dimensions of that culture.
- **To increase understanding of one's own culture**, demonstrated by ability to see aspects of one's own culture not previously recognized, and to evaluate the culture's strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of an outsider.
- **To understand the nature of cultural differences**, demonstrated by an understanding of some of the fundamental concerns that must be addressed by all human beings, and by a readiness to accept that a wide variety of solutions are possible.

Global Awareness

- **To deepen interest in world affairs**, demonstrated by an increased curiosity and concern about world issues, obtaining information from many sources and being aware of other cultural perspectives.
- **To better understand the causes of world conflict**, by recognizing cultural differences that affect people and divide us in areas such as environmental concerns, poverty and systems of government.
- **To search for solutions to worldwide problems**, by the giving of one's personal resources (time, energy, money) to support culturally sensitive and technologically feasible solutions.
- **To further world peace**, with the multicultural perspective provided through the AFS experience, work toward a more tolerant, just and peaceful world recognizing the worth and dignity of all people.