

What do AFS Chapters Do?

Chapters strengthen and enhance the purpose of AFS through 4 types of activities:

1. Hosting AFS Participants

- Identify and approach potential AFS host families
- Recruit and interview host families and ensure that all host families are fully screened and have all required paperwork on file
- Match hosted participants with screened host families
- Obtain written school approvals
- Recruit, train, assign, and monitor liaisons
- Provide support to hosted participants, host families and schools after arrival, including the management of local crisis or emergency situations involving AFS participants
- Document monthly contact for all hosted participants and host families
- Provide activities for hosted participants while in the U.S.

2. Sending AFS Participants Abroad

- Recruit and screen participants to go abroad on an AFS program
- Provide application completion assistance to participants
- Advise participants about fundraising
- Conduct participant interviews
- Set expectations for participants and their families about intercultural experiences
- Provide support to natural parents while participants are abroad
- Incorporate participants in chapter activities prior to their AFS program departure and upon their return

3. Conducting Orientations

- Conduct or ensure participants attend the following local orientations:
 - Host family pre-arrival orientations
 - Arrival orientations for hosted participants
 - Post-Arrival orientations for hosted participants
 - Mid-Year orientation for hosted participants and host families. *NOTE: The Mid-Year orientation is optional but encouraged*
 - Pre-Return orientation for hosted participants and host families
 - Pre-Departure orientation for sending participants
 - End-of-Stay orientations for hosted participants

4. Promoting AFS programs in your Community

- Display AFS marketing materials in the community
- Work with schools, clubs and other potential promoters of AFS
- Raise awareness of the benefits of AFS programs
- Encourage AFS participants to share their experiences in the community
- Support AFS or International Clubs in the schools
- Use local newspapers and other local media outlets, community notices to promote AFS
- Use local authorities to help promote and position AFS as the volunteer organization of choice
- Use other online mediums like Facebook and Twitter, or create your own website to promote AFS in your area

Once the chapter has identified what programs it would like to support, it can begin to focus on the essential elements of what the chapter activities will be and what role each volunteer can play.