



## General Information

**Faces & Our Cultures** is a 7.5 week cultural exchange program from Guatemala, C.A. Our program offers an enriching experience through the exchange of cultures within an educational environment.

**Faces & Our Cultures** provides participants with tools to grow as individuals; it also facilitates the human and cultural development of young people between the ages of 10 and 17 by preparing them to be *Cultural Ambassadors* from our country. These students go through a careful selection process based on specific criteria and requirements to ensure their success.

The program's commitment is to provide an enriching experience for all parties: the host country, the host school, the host family and the participants themselves. The FACES Program currently works with 85 schools in the United States: specifically in the states of Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois, Delaware, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, and Colorado.

### Objectives of the Program

- To provide a growing and enriching cultural experience for both cultures within an educational environment, promoting global community understanding
- An environment in which to practice a second language with native speakers from both cultures
- To promote friendship between cultures

### Dates of 2017 Program

**Starts:** Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

**Ends:** Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

### Profile of our Cultural Ambassadors

- Boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 17
- Who attend bilingual or trilingual schools in Guatemala (Spanish - English - German or French)
- Who speak, read, and write in English; some more proficiently than others
- Who are academically strong students
- Who value this opportunity and are willing to learn and share their country's culture
- Who have grown up in an environment of values and discipline
- Who have completed an emotional profile evaluation, which determines if the applicant has the necessary skills to participate in the program

**Our Cultural Ambassadors will participate in the host schools as regular students, but their grades will not be transferred to their local schools since they are on vacation from their local schools, and the main objective of the program is primarily cultural.**

### Program's General Procedure

- Guatemalan children apply to participate in the program.
- The children go through a selection process and are admitted once they fill the program's requirements and undergo a psychological evaluation.
- Each school in the United States invites the number of Cultural Ambassadors that they would like to host for 7.5 weeks.
- A school representative (Principal, Admissions Director, Multicultural Affairs Director, Foreign Language Director, Spanish teacher, etc.) functions as a liaison with one of our program coordinators.



### Costs and Expenses

Parents in Guatemala cover the cost of their child's program. The host school establishes a fee that will cover expenses such as lunches, copies, field trips, etc. The corresponding FACES Coordinator will bring such payment to the school upon the arrival of the Cultural Ambassadors, or the payment can be sent beforehand by mail if required by the school. Children stay with volunteer families from the hosting school.

### Medical Insurance

Our Cultural Ambassadors travel to the United States with a worldwide medical insurance card that will cover any medical treatment: BUPA International ([www.bupa.com](http://www.bupa.com))

### Coordinators' Support

Program Coordinators will be available and will provide support to the school, host families, and Cultural Ambassadors throughout the entire duration of the program. For this purpose, they will maintain close contact with all parties.

**Faces & Our Cultures** Coordinators escort the Ambassadors to the United States and stay in the area for approximately two weeks to help with the transition process or any other aspect that the school, host families, or children might need. Coordinators return to the United States in December to escort the participants back to Guatemala.

### Cross Cultural Enrichment

Our Ambassadors prepare and participate in four projects to share with their host school's educational community:

- **PowerPoint presentation about Guatemala:** This presentation will include information about the history, demography, geography, education, and cultural aspects of the Hispanic culture, as well as information regarding what means to be a teenager in Guatemala (school, friends, extracurricular activities, family, etc.) which will be shared with classmates and teachers or as determined by the host school.
- **Video Documentary:** The Multicultural Affairs Office of our country prepares this material for the FACES Program. It provides a beautiful showcase of Guatemala with its varied environments and ecosystems.
- **Guatemalan food:** The students will be ready to prepare and share a typical Guatemalan dish with their host family, Spanish class classmates, or at a school festival/cultural activity.
- **Spanish classes:** Our children are willing to cooperate actively with the host school's Spanish department to provide support and enrichment at the elementary, middle school, or high school levels. They can help by reading books, practicing conversation, and helping students in the language learning program.

The Guatemalan students will be happy to present these projects on the date/schedule and to the group determined by the host school.

### What to Expect from our Cultural Ambassadors

Cultural Ambassadors from the **Faces & Our Cultures Program** are expected to be role models, to always be on their best behavior, to be examples of good manners, and to demonstrate positive attitudes.

At home:

- They will be on their best behavior and have good manners.
- They will adapt to all the activities, rules, and schedules of their host family.
- They will participate in all the household chores in which the host family children participate.

At school:

- They will attend school and participate like regular students.
- They must do homework and participate in all school activities, rallies, retreats, exams, quizzes; etc.
- They must follow the school dress code or wear its uniform.



## Our Expectations of our Students

The cultural ambassadors from the **Faces & Our Cultures Program** are expected to be role models, well-behaved, well-mannered, and examples of a good attitude.

### AT HOME:

- They will be on their best behavior and always practice good manners.
- They will adapt to all the activities, rules, and schedules.
- They will attend and be respectful of any religious activity.
- They will participate in all house chores in which the host family children participate.

### AT SCHOOL:

- They will come to school and participate like full-time students.
- They must do homework and participate in all school activities, rallies, retreats, exams, quizzes; etc.
- They must follow the school's dress code or uniform; they will wear clothes that closely resemble the school uniform if the school has a uniform.
- They will present four Cultural Projects to the educational community on the date/event as determined by school authorities.

### WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS:

- They will participate in social activities as long the host parents allow them to attend.
- They will follow curfews, rules, and schedules.
- High school children are not allowed to go on dates.

### RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES:

- Students are not allowed to drive.
- Students are not allowed to drink or smoke.
- Students are not allowed to hunt or handle any kind of weapon.
- Students are not allowed to bring smart phones to the Cultural Exchange Program.

**\*\*\* Students can only use electronics in common areas at home. They may NOT bring the devices to their bedrooms. \*\*\***



## Host General Guide

This document contains important information regarding Cultural Ambassadors for the host schools and host families.

### Participant Profile

Our Cultural Ambassadors have a strong desire to participate in the program and recognize the experience as an opportunity for their personal and academic growth. They are selected from among a group of applicants.

Each child is required to provide us with recommendation letters from their school principal, school counselor, and English teacher. These letters provide us with a perspective of their academic performance and general behavior. They also require a medical certification and legal authorization to participate in the program.

### School

Children attend a U.S. school as visitors and Cultural Ambassadors; they do not earn school credits. During their visit, they are expected to turn in homework, take exams and quizzes, and participate in all school activities along with the rest of the student body. Participants must follow the uniform/dress code as determined by the school.

The grades they receive in the United States during their program will not earn them academic credits at their Guatemalan school. The host school's liaison will complete a document that provides general information about the participant's performance at school: overall attitude, sense of responsibility, and presentation of the cultural project to the school.

### Household Responsibilities

The Cultural Ambassadors will participate in all host family activities. They will keep their belongings in order, and, if they have their own room, they will be expected to keep it clean. They will also participate in the household chores.

### Communication

The Cultural Ambassadors are allowed to **receive** weekly phone, Skype, or Facetime calls from their parents. Each child should ask the host family regarding the best time to receive phone calls. They are **not** to use the host family phone line to make international calls once a week. Participants are not allowed to bring cell phones or any device that will allow an Internet connection unless the school requires them to do so.

### Permissions and Rules

The Cultural Ambassadors travel to the United States with the understanding that they will abide by all laws, rules, and regulations of the host home, school, and state. No misconduct will be allowed or tolerated at any time. Children understand that only the host family may grant permission for extracurricular activities and will determine curfew hours.

### Restricted Activities

The Cultural Ambassadors are expected and encouraged to participate in school and family activities. However, they are not allowed, under any circumstances, to engage in activities that could endanger their life or anyone else's, such as hunting or shooting weapons of any kind or driving a motor vehicle.

Cultural Ambassadors may ride to and from school with a host brother or sister, student, or friend that has a valid driver's license and that the host school and host family trusts, but they may **not** operate any motor vehicle themselves.



## Dating

For high school Ambassadors, dating while in the United States is prohibited by the **Faces & Our Cultures Program** as it could distract them from achieving the main goal of the program.

## Meals

Food is very similar in Guatemala and the United States. Children will adapt to meals and schedules both at home and at school. The only basic difference is that dinner in Guatemala usually takes place between 7:45 – 8:30 pm, so they may ask for a snack before bedtime; however, they must adjust to your meal schedules. The lunch program at school will be covered by the program.

## Money

Ambassadors prepare themselves throughout the year for this cultural experience. This preparation includes saving money to be able to enjoy their stay in the United States and have some pocket money to spend.

## Shopping

Children always have expectations regarding shopping in the United States, particularly girls. There are many things in the United States that are either not available in Guatemala, or may be less expensive in the States. Program coordinators emphasize that shopping is not the purpose of this exchange program. Shopping excursions will be at the discretion of the host families.

## Insurance

Every participant brings full international medical and travel insurance. Cultural Ambassadors will bring their insurance ID cards. Host families will receive this same information via email on a form that includes all pertinent contact information.

## Logistics and Support

Children arrive in the United States with the group and leave with the entire group. They are not allowed to stay longer under any circumstances.

During the first week, as participants are adjusting to their surroundings, **Faces & Our Cultures Program** coordinators will stay in the area and visit schools and participants to help them have a smooth transition process. We will support Cultural Ambassadors, schools, and host families in any way necessary during the duration of the program.

## Preparation Course

Students are required to participate in various workshops during the year, prior to leaving Guatemala, to prepare them to be successful Cultural Ambassadors in the United States.

**Thank you so much for participating in this cultural exchange experience,  
and please feel free to contact us at anytime.**

## Spring & Summer Program

We offer an optional spring and summer program at a private school in Guatemala. Participants will live with a host family and take part in social, educational, and sports activities. The length of the program is up to the school, student, and parents. For more information, U.S. families can contact their school's liaison. Each FACES coordinator will create a personalized program according to the school's timetable and preferred schedule.



# FACES & OUR CULTURES

**HOST BROTHER /  
HOST SISTER  
PICTURE**  
*(RECENT INDIVIDUAL  
PICTURE)*

## HOST FAMILY APPLICATION FORM 2017

**Application Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha de Aplicación Day / Month / Year

### HOST BROTHER / HOST SISTER INFORMATION

Información del Hermano/Hermana Anfitrión

<b>Full Name:</b> <small>Nombre Completo</small>	_____		
<b>E-Mail:</b> <small>Correo Electrónico</small>	_____		
<b>Facebook:</b> <small>Redes Sociales</small>	_____	<b>Snapchat:</b>	_____
<b>Instagram:</b> <small>Redes Sociales</small>	_____	<b>Twitter:</b>	_____
<b>Cell Phone:</b> <small>Teléfono Celular</small>	_____	<b>Grade:</b> <small>Grado</small>	_____
<b>Gender:</b> <small>Género</small>	_____	<b>Age:</b> <small>Edad</small>	_____
<b>I Would Like To Be:</b> <small>Me Gustaría Ser</small>	_____	<b>Nickname:</b> <small>Apodo</small>	_____
<b>T-Shirt Size:</b> <small>Talla Playera</small>	_____	<b>Sweater Size:</b> <small>Talla Sudadero</small>	_____
<b>Date Of Birth:</b> <small>Fecha de Nacimiento</small>	_____/_____/_____ <small>Day Month Year</small>		
<b>Local School:</b> <small>Colegio en Guatemala</small>	_____		
<b>Languages Spoken:</b> <small>Idiomas Practicados</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Spanish</b> <small>Español</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>English</b> <small>Inglés</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER (OTRO)</b>

**Questions to be completed by host brother/host sister - Please provide as much information as possible**

Preguntas para hermano/hermana anfitrión - Provee el mayor detalle posible

**Why do you want to be a host brother/host sister to a Guatemalan Cultural Ambassador?**

¿Por qué quieres ser un hermano/hermana anfitrión para uno de nuestros Embajadores Culturales de Guatemala?

**Mark with an X the activities/hobbies you like to participate in:**

Marca las actividades/hobbies en las que te gusta participar:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Basketball<br><input type="checkbox"/> Baseball<br><input type="checkbox"/> Biking<br><input type="checkbox"/> Equestrians<br><input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding<br><input type="checkbox"/> Swimming<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tennis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball<br><input type="checkbox"/> Eco-Adventure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gym / Working Out<br><input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing (Tap/Jazz/Ballet)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Drawing / Painting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Crafts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Photography<br><input type="checkbox"/> Design<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Guitar<br><input type="checkbox"/> Piano<br><input type="checkbox"/> Singing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Listening to Music<br><input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Academics / Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Video Games |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**OTHER HOBBIES (Otros intereses)**

**DO YOU HAVE PETS? If YES, which ones? (¿Tienes mascotas? ¿Cuáles?)**

**FAVORITE CLASS (Tu clase favorita)**

### BROTHERS & SISTERS

Hermanos & Hermanas

Name <small>Nombre</small>	Gender <small>Género</small>	Age <small>Edad</small>	School <small>Colegio</small>






**Please attach two pictures - Host Sibling picture in page 1 and a Family picture (RECENT)**

*Por favor adjuntar dos fotografías - Una personal del hermano(a) anfitrión(a) en la página 1 y una familiar (RECIENTES)*



**Dear host brother / sister:**

First and foremost, we want to say THANK YOU for having the interest and desire to be a part of the FACES AND OUR CULTURES FAMILY! We are very excited to have the opportunity to get to know you better and help in any way possible to make this experience unforgettable for you.

Our mission is to promote an enriching and unforgettable experience for each person that participates in the program. This is why we need to learn more about you as a host brother/sister.

We kindly ask you to provide us with the information requested below. It is very important that you know that **EVERYTHING** you write is considered very valuable and will help us to get to know you better and support you during this journey.

The information we are requesting is not graded and will be kept confidential.

All people have characteristics that are considered to be **STRENGTHS** because they create feelings of self-confidence, well-being, and pride. One of these strengths might be that you think you are a good brother or sister, a good student, or a good son or daughter. If so, please down write the characteristics that make you, for example, a good brother or sister:

On the space below, please write ten (10) characteristics that illustrate your strengths.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

People also have other characteristics that can create conflicts. These characteristics may be called defects or weaknesses, but we call them **OPPORTUNITIES** because when we recognize them and take responsibility for them, we can *change* them to avoid conflicts or problems with others.

Some of these characteristics are anger, laziness, disorganization, shyness, etc. Which ones might be yours?

On the space below, write at least eight (8) characteristics that you consider your **opportunities**. Remember: there are no right or wrong answers. It is very normal to have areas of opportunities.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.



All people can learn from their experiences and that is why they set goals for themselves. These goals are personal; they have to do with things or interests that they want to achieve.

Thinking about the cultural exchange experience, name three goals you would like to achieve for yourself. In what ways will this experience help you to become a well-rounded person?

1.
2.
3.

When this experience is completed, how would you like your exchange-brother or sister to remember you? What mark would you like to leave on his or her life?

In the space below, please write three marks you would like to leave on his or her life.

1.
2.
3.

What is the thing that excites you the most about this experience?


What worries you the most about this experience?


Which plans or activities would you like do with your brother or sister?


Which situations might be difficult for you during this time or while you get to know your brother or sister better?


Under what circumstances could we help you the most?
