Orientation of New Members

It is important that new members are informed and oriented about Friendship Force and the benefits they can enjoy by joining your club

Welcome!

- The aim of this document is to provide you with information about Friendship Force and, in particular, your local club, Friendship Force ........................, how the club operates and the many membership benefits available to you.
- As a new or even a long-standing member, you obviously share our interest in exploring new cultures, countries and regions.
- Friendship Force provides the opportunity to meet new friends through travel and home hospitality, and those experiences lead to understanding and a greater desire to serve our global village.
- Whenever we host visitors from another international or domestic club, all members are encouraged to participate, so included in this document is some information about how you can travel with an Outbound Journey and about how you can be involved when we host an Inbound Journey group.
- When you join us, we want your membership to be a rewarding experience!

The FFI Mission

Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. Each individual can make a contribution to global goodwill. The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals seeks to overcome differences among people and nations.

Let’s start with the History of the Organisation Itself

- Reverend Wayne Smith initiated the idea that people staying in each other’s homes were not likely to make war, and suggested an organisation to plan and implement this idea. The name of this organisation became Friendship Force International (FFI).
- FFI officially started on 1st March 1977 when Wayne Smith’s friend President Jimmy Carter made an announcement from the White House to a meeting of State Governors asking them to go back and set up clubs in their own states. There are now about 100 clubs in USA.
- He and his wife Rosalynn were involved in the leadership of FFI from then until about 2002, and are still interested though not involved.
- One significant early event was being nominated in 1992 for a Novel Peace Prize for initiating Journeys to and from the east after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.
- There is now a worldwide network of 350 clubs and more than 15,000 individuals that advance the mission of promoting friendship across the barriers of race, religion, and cultures that separate people.
About FFI Leadership

- Overall governance is provided by the Board of Directors, a group of 12 people with specialist skills drawn from countries that have Friendship Force clubs. Currently Australasia is represented by (Bobbie Mulholland from Adelaide). The Board provides the financial and operational policies needed for our organisation.
- Overseeing the day-to-day administration is the CEO (presently Jeremi Snook) who works with 14 full and part time staff based mainly in Atlanta, Georgia, but also in Japan, Germany, Brazil, South Pacific and other places in USA.
- In NZ, there are 21 clubs administered by a volunteer structure of a Coordinator, three Field Reps (2 North Island, 1 South Island), and three Auxiliary Officers (Webmaster, eFlyer Coordinator and Financial Services Officer). All are regarded as a volunteer extension of the FFI staff.
- Friendship Force New Zealand (FFNZ) has a conference every second (even-numbered) year and some sort of leadership forum for the in-between year.
- There are annual Field Days at Thames (L&P Day) for the northern North Island clubs, at Feilding (Nuts ‘n’ Bolts Day) for the southern North Island Clubs, and South Island gatherings are held from time to time.

About Journeys

- The primary way FFI carries out its mission is by Journeys. These can take several forms
  - Club-to-Club International – the traditional type of Journey and still most common at 65%.
  - Club-to-Club Domestic – within NZ at about 5%.
  - Global – There are several types of these including Themed, Discovery, Language, Teachers, and Cruise - about 30%.

About (your) ....................... Club – Background

- FF ...................... was chartered ......................
- We have welcomed over .............. Inbound Journeys from all parts of the world.
- We have led .............. Outbound Journeys to many different parts of the world.
- FF ....................... has hosted the National Conference in ..................
- Our club is run by a board consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President and ............ members. The Club Rules / Constitution provide that the President is elected for a ............... year term, the others for ........... year.
- Board Meetings are held (place)............................... at (time) .............. usually at a board member’s home. You are most welcome to attend.
- Our club has a website www. ......................... , and a few minutes scrolling through this will provide lots of information about our club including past and future Journeys and events.
- Our club also has a Facebook page www.facebook.com/ ....................... which provides both members and non-members information about the many activities of our club.
- Other information .....................

About (your) ....................... Club - Membership & Dues

- Membership is open to anyone who accepts Friendship Force principles and pays an annual membership subscription.
- The current subscription is $................... per member, plus an initial cost of $.............. for a name badge, and the membership year is from .........................
• Membership fees are set each year at the Annual General Meeting (usually .........................) and should be paid by .......................... However, new members joining after ......................... are regarded as paid up through the following year.

About (your) ............... Club - Social Events and Meetings

• **Name Badges** – Members are requested to wear name badges at all functions, especially where Journey Activity both Outbound and Inbound is involved.
• **Social events** are held regularly, often in conjunction with Inbound Journeys. At these, members are updated about upcoming events including Inbound and Outbound Journeys, upcoming social events, and indeed anything that members should be informed about. These events can be anything from pot luck dinners, dining out, soup and bun, picnic, dress ups, and lots more and usually encompass some sort of activity.
• **Coffee Mornings and Conversation** takes place .............................................. (place, date and time).
• The FF .................... **Annual Meeting** is held in ......................... when election of officers for the following year takes place, future and past FFI Journeys are discussed, and other updated information is made available.
• A **newsletter** is produced .............................................. and sent by email to all members, and is also available on our website www.........................org.nz. For the few individuals who do not have email, a copy of the newsletter is sent by post.
• You are encouraged to participate in all activities of our club.

About (your) ............... Club – Inbound and Outbound Journeys

Each year, we normally apply for ............ Inbound Journeys and ............ Outbound Journey.

• **Inbound Journey** – (also read ‘Being a Great Host’)
  • As part of your FF experience, we suggest that you offer to be a host. This can be as a home host, or day host, or dinner host.
  • As a **home host**, you will be asked to open your home and heart by providing accommodation, share some meals (mainly breakfast), drive them to events and attractions, and use your best self to make them welcome and enjoy their visit. You will get pleasure from the companionship, conversation, showing them ‘your patch’ and most likely gain new lifelong friends.
  • Another way to assist and enjoy is by being the ambassadors buddy for the day as a **day host**. This gives you the opportunity to make friendships while giving the Home Hosts a day off.
  • Being a **dinner host** is yet another way of taking part. You provide the meal for the ambassadors (and their hosts), and it is an opportunity to invite potential members to meet these people.

• **Outbound Journeys** – (also read ‘Being a Great Ambassador’)
  • As a FF ......................... member, you are eligible to **apply** for all the Outbound Journeys organized by your club, or by any other club within or outside NZ, and with any of FFI’s Global Journeys.
  • Information for these is sent by email either using the monthly South Pacific eFlyer, or by the regular catalogue releases by FFI, or from the FFI website which we encourage you to use.
  • For this purpose, your email address will be/has been recorded with FFI so you will receive these Journey updates and any other important news as it is released.
  • The FFI Administration Fee is US$140 per week for an International Journey, US$20 per night for a Stopover, US$10 per night for a Domestic Journey, and US$150 per week for the
Club Host Fees, although this latter might change depending on the programme agreed between Coordinators.

The above is an outline of Friendship Force International and your club’s place in the organisation.

We also have a pledge and a song, and if you have further questions, there are 22 answers below that will probably help.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE PLEDGE
As a member of the Friendship Force,
I recognize that I can make a difference.
I recognize that I have a mission.
That mission is to be a friend to the people of the world.
As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me.
I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other countries,
the cause of friendship and peace can be furthered.
I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SONG
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father...family all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace internally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Friendship Force is an international cultural journey and home hospitality program. Its goal is to promote international understanding, friendship, and world peace.
Ten Reasons to Join Us

Great Places - Great Faces - Great Friends

1. Go where you've never been
Take a journey into the heart of a country and its people. Friendship Force International conducts over 300 programmes every year, in 360 communities in over 60 countries. Friendship Force hosts are eager to welcome you into their culture, sharing sights and experiences that are not available to tourists.

2. Get off the beaten track
There's no better way to see a new place than with a friend who knows its “best kept secrets.” You might dine in a palace in Indonesia, visit a remote village in Africa, or see a polo match in Argentina. You cannot do these without the help of the locals.

3. Cultural immersion
Through the unique Friendship Force program of home hospitality, international travellers are hosted in the homes of local families. In this way, you can get to know a new culture from the inside. For example, you might learn local pastimes, such as calligraphy in Japan or snowshoeing in Canada, or you could learn family recipes in your host's kitchen. You might even be invited to religious ceremonies or a wedding.

4. Personal friendships
When you travel or host with the Friendship Force, you get to know real people by sharing real life. Often, friendships are formed that last a lifetime.

5. Bring the world to your doorstep
As a Friendship Force host you can explore the world without leaving home by extending the hand of friendship to international guests. It's a rewarding experience to give your guests an up-close, insider's view of life in your country, either through overnight home hospitality or daytime cultural activities.

6. Represent your country and your town
When you travel or host with the Friendship Force you have the opportunity to share knowledge of your country and culture with new friends from around the world. Through friendly conversation and everyday experiences, you become part of changing the way others see your culture and the world.

7. Make a Difference
There are many opportunities to make a difference in communities around the world. For example, you can help your new friends practice your language, bring supplies to a needy school, or host foreign teachers attending a professional development program in your city.

8. Pursue your passions around the world
Themed programs allow participants to come together to explore a common interest in a unique region of the world. You could spend a week exploring the gardens of England, studying biodiversity in Costa Rica, touring vineyards in New Zealand, or cycling the Niagara Falls region, all with the company of international friends who share your enthusiasm.

9. Lifelong learning
The Friendship Force promotes lifelong learning through a variety of travel and hosting programs. For example, programs especially for teachers and students promote education across borders. Language learning programs provide the opportunity to spend a week in a foreign country with a host family, in full language immersion.

10. Promote Global Goodwill
Friendship Force participants greet the world with an open mind and respect for other cultures. In this way, each person makes an individual contribution toward global goodwill.
Frequently Asked Questions

About Friendship Force

1. **What are Friendship Force clubs?**
   - Friendship Force International has a volunteer network in 360 clubs in 60 countries on 6 continents with over 15,000 active members.
   - The clubs are connected globally through Friendship Force International (FFI), a non-profit organization with a head office in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

2. **What does it mean to be committed to the FF mission?**
   - Since 1977, FFI has a history of bringing people together in friendship across the barriers that separate people. The FFI Mission outlines these aims.
   - We think of ourselves as ‘citizen ambassadors’, each of us having the power to promote good international and cultural relations at a personal level.

3. **What is involved in becoming a member of a Friendship Force club?**
   - Join The Friendship Force:
     - if you have a curiosity about the world and enjoy learning about cultures and ways of life,
     - if you like the challenge and excitement of new people, places and experiences,
     - if you believe in the goals and mission of the organization,
     - if you believe that friendship among people of different countries and cultures can make for a better world

4. **Am I required to home-host or travel as an ambassador if I am a member?**
   - No, there are no requirements for club members to home-host visitors or travel as an ambassador. It is however, the best way to learn about other people and their cultures, and you may consider being involved as a Day Host or a Dinner Host.

5. **How do I find out what is happening in the club?**
   - You will receive regular newsletters and frequent emails about activities, meetings, and Journeys. Check out our website or for NZ news, go to [www.friendshipforce.org.nz](http://www.friendshipforce.org.nz) or for international news, go to [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org). Also check out our Facebook page.

6. **What types of social activities does a club have?**
   - Clubs arrange a variety of social events (usually monthly) that include a wide range of activities which might include a picnic, potluck gatherings, social evenings, or indeed all sorts of activities. These are advised in the regular newsletters and on the club website.

7. **What is an ‘Ambassador or Host Coordinator’?**
   - An Ambassador Coordinator (for outbound Journeys) or Host Coordinator (for inbound Journeys) is an individual who has been approved by FFI Headquarters to plan, organize, and lead a Journey.
   - This is open to anyone who has the desired leadership qualities and can make the commitment of time needed for adequate planning and recruiting of ambassadors (outbound) or hosts (inbound) with a 9 to 12 month lead-time.
   - Most clubs have some experienced Coordinators who are more than willing to mentor a first time Ambassador Coordinator, and to provide suitable training.
About Inward Journeys

8. What is a homestay? Or home hospitality?
   - Home hospitality is the signature program of Friendship Force. You will have the opportunity for the period of the Journey to be a guest in someone’s home, or to host someone in your home where the real power of citizen diplomacy can be experienced.
   - You will learn first-hand the difference between ‘travel as a tourist’ and the ‘experience of being a temporary citizen’. Just ask any member who has experienced a homestay and you will learn that while you begin your stay as a virtual stranger, you end the week as a friend.
   - Following the Journey, most members stay in touch with each other using social media, and there are frequently subsequent visit to each other’s homes. Friendships can last a lifetime.

9. Who are the host families?
   - Host families are normally (but not always) members of a Friendship Force club.
   - They are not paid to provide hosting but do so because of their interest in getting to know and learn about ‘citizen ambassadors’ from places across the world.
   - The host and their family become the inside guides to the country and its people.
   - There is no better way to explore the world!

10. What are the responsibilities of a ‘home host’?
    - A home host invites ambassadors to be a part of the family for the duration of the Journey.
    - They endeavour to attend the pre-planning workshops about the Journey.
    - They make sure that their guests can take part in programme activities.
    - They involve their guest in the activities of their own family.
    - If for some reason they cannot be with their guests for a day, the Host Coordinator will arrange a ‘day host’ to look after their ambassador(s).

11. Will I have the opportunity to communicate with my host or guest prior to his/her arrival?
    - Normally this is the case. Nearly all of international ambassadors and hosts have email and it is usual to commence this communication as soon as advice of names and contact details is received.
    - For many, communications and private visits back and forth continue for years and even a lifetime.

12. What is a Day Host?
    - A day host is a club member who is not home hosting, but takes part by looking after a home host’s ambassadors for a day’s activities on the days the home host is unable to do so.
    - It is an excellent way for anyone unable to home host to get some quality time with visiting ambassadors.

13. What Is a ‘Dinner Host’?
    - Members unable to home host often provide at their own expense a small informal at-home dinner party for ambassadors, their hosts and invitees.
    - It is an excellent opportunity to invite new members, non-members and family to meet the visitors.
    - The dinner hosts decides the number of people they can host, the menu and method of serving. They may ask guests to assist with an appetiser, salad, dessert, and wine.
    - The programme is over to the dinner host. It will probably be an evening of sharing, fun, laughter, conversation and good food, and may even include a game or similar.
14. Is there a typical itinerary?
- Each Journey itinerary is unique, but most will combine a Friendship Force homestay with an active programme taking in the local places of interest – all the time establishing a personal relationship between ambassadors and hosts.
- There is normally welcome function and meal to introduce the ambassadors to other club members, and a farewell function and meal to say goodbyes.
- All club members are encouraged to participate in the welcome and farewell events.

About Outward Journeys

15. Do ambassadors travel as a group?
- Friendship Force Journeys normally comprise of 14 to 20 individuals, known as “ambassadors.”
- Ambassadors travel arrangements often vary when departing New Zealand.
  - Sometime they depart as a group which can contribute to a more rewarding experience.
  - Sometimes they make their own travel arrangements and meet at a specific location in the host city at a specific time.

16. What is meant by ‘applying’ to go on a Journey?
- An experienced Ambassador Coordinator leads each Journey, and they will ask you to complete an ‘Agreement and Application Form’ to apply as a Journey participant.
- You are asked to fill this in carefully and accurately, particularly the important part which encompasses the health and mobility of a traveller.
- Merely filling in the form does not automatically mean you will be accepted. The Coordinator makes this decision.

17. Since I am a single woman, would I be matched with another woman?
- Yes, this is normally the situation, just as couples may host a couple. But there are exceptions, and you can work this out with your Coordinator.
- Matching of ambassadors and hosts takes into consideration the number of bedrooms and type of bed(s) available, and the interests and occupations of each party.

18. I don’t see myself travelling in the next year or so. Should I still join?
- Certainly. Friendship Force is not a travel club and there are many other ways you can accomplish the Friendship Force’s mission of building global goodwill through personal friendships.
- For an inbound Journey, consider being a home host, a day host or a dinner host.
- Clubs always have a programme of social activities to build friendships within the club.

19. Do you plan visits to clubs within New Zealand?
- Yes, there are 21 clubs in the New Zealand, and clubs arrange what are called ‘Domestic Journeys’ with another local club,

20. What can I expect when I am ‘home-hosted’ by an individual or family?
- You will become a part of their family during your stay.
- You will take part in the programme of activities provided for the entire group by the Coordinators.
- You will be allowed some free time where you and your host might visit areas of mutual interest, or visit family and friends, or just spend time resting at home.
21. What should I expect to pay financially when I go on an Outbound Journey?
   - There are three main costs ambassadors have to prepay before the Journey begins:
     - An FFI Administration Fee currently US$140
     - A Host Club fee which normally ranges between US$150-200 depending on the programme planned by the host club. This covers most (not all) expenses which are normally incurred when there.
     - Normal general expenses related to the running of the Journey.
   - Ambassadors pay for their transportation to the host country and any internal, accommodation and sightseeing costs before, during or after the Journey.
   - It is a normal custom to take your host family to lunch or dinner during the Journey.
   - You should purchase or make small gifts for each member of your host family that represent your/their interests and/or your home community

22. What if I am not able to go or don’t care to go on the Outbound Journey you have scheduled? Are there other ways for me to travel with the organization?
   - There are a number of other ways to travel on a Journey
     - You may apply to travel with another club from New Zealand or even another country if they have room for you.
     - FFI provides a wide range of different types of Global Journeys that include people from several countries where the ambassadors travel from many parts of the world to enjoy a themed Journey together.
   - You will find the full list of Journeys and events on the Friendship Force International website at to www.friendshipforce.org. If you see a Journey you like, click on it to find out the details.
   - Regional and International Conferences are held every other year and all members are invited to attend these.