



Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.



PHILOSOPHY: Every friendship formed across the barriers of nationality, language, religion or politics makes the world a better place.

HISTORY: Founded in 1977 by Wayne Smith with US President Jimmy Carter. Honored with a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 1992. Celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2017.

WHAT: A non-profit cultural organization focused on promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through homestay Journeys and personal friendships. Through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends – and we know that by experiencing different views, you can discover common ground.

Friendship Force International conducts over 300 programs every year, in over 350 communities throughout more than 60 countries. Our programs bring diverse people together into each other's cultures and homes to share one-of-a-kind experiences not available to regular tourists. When you travel or host with the Friendship Force, you get to know real people by sharing real life. Friendships are formed that often last a lifetime.

HOW: Our unique Friendship Force Journeys provide international travelers with opportunities to be hosted by local people, and to be treated to a local experience in places around the world, seeing the world through other people's eyes.

WHO: Friendship Force members are ordinary people like you, living all over the world, who are eager to welcome you into their culture and their life, sharing insights and experiences that are not available to tourists. By sharing experiences, a home, meals, and conversations, we believe we can reach a new level of understanding among the human family.

FFI BY THE NUMBERS:

1 mission: to promote understanding across the barriers that separate people

6 continents: North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific

Over 350 clubs in more than 60 countries

4,708 ambassadors traveling in 2016 on 300 Journeys

38 global Journeys in 2016

Over 1 million volunteer citizen ambassadors participating in our mission since 1977.

15,000 members: travelers and hosts, who participate every year

13 board members, representing 10 different countries

16 staff members, working in the USA, Brazil, Germany, and Japan

1 friend, 1 smile, 1 hello at a time.



Friendship Force travel programs are called "Journeys." These are a few types of Journeys we offer:

Homestay

Be hosted by a local family for an immersive cultural experience.

Professional

Join or host a professional development program in or from another country, such as our Open World Leadership Program.

Language-Learning

Take language classes along with your international homestay.

Humanitarian & Environmental

Learn about the environment or participate in volunteer projects as you travel the world.

Active & Outdoors

Enjoy a travel program themed around hiking, cycling, rowing and more.

Teachers & Students

Participate in learning and development trips designed for youth, students, and educators.

Food & Drink

Experience a travel program themed around winemaking, cooking, pubs, and more.