



Employer Cultural Activities Guide

Part of being a successful host employer with InterExchange is having an open mind and attitude, embracing different cultures and acting as an informal U.S. representative to people from all over the world. In this role, InterExchange host employers often organize different cultural activities to engage with their international and American staff. We encourage our employers to actively provide participants with opportunities to experience and learn firsthand about American culture, customs and values.

Creating a fun, social environment in the workplace is a great way to promote cultural exchange and does not require a lot of resources. Here are just a few ideas of ways to help students learn more about the local culture and the diversity of the United States.

Introducing American Culture to Participants Upon Arrival

Tips on First Introductions

1. Airport, bus or train pickup (pick up your international students with personalized signs that include their names and countries, hand them a welcome beverage like Coca-Cola or Sprite).
2. Hand out nametags to all your students and throw a welcome party!
3. Have a bulletin board - include your students' photos, names and their countries' flags.
4. Distribute a monthly company calendar of events.
5. Create a welcome packet with a community or city fact sheet (include the nearest hospital, banks, grocery stores, bus routes, local events).
6. Ask students to join your company's Facebook and Twitter page.
7. Connect with local organizations like the YMCA, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary or local libraries that host events for international students.
8. Pair students with your American staff. This is a great opportunity for international students to improve their English and learn about American culture!
9. Icebreakers are a great way for your international and American staff to get to know each other, and motivate them to work with each other in a cooperative manner. See a list here: residentassistant.com/games/icebreakers.htm
10. Cultural bingo: www.InterExchange.org/for-hosts/bingo

Sports Related Cultural Activities

1. **Sporting events.** Host a game viewing in the company break room or local community center (baseball, basketball, American football).
2. **Flag football or kickball competitions.** Form a company league of 4 - 10 players on each team, bring a grill and have a cookout.
3. **Miniature golf tournament**
4. **Local races.** Participate in a local 5K Walk or Run under the company's name.
5. **Exercise.** Negotiate membership discounts for your students at a local gym or fitness center.
6. **Community recreation centers.** Take students to meet members of the community.
7. **Bike-a-thon.** Take participants on a tour of the city.