



friendship force
U.K.




friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Discover a New Way to Travel

**An Introduction to the
UK VOYAGER
PROGRAMME**

Explore • Understand • Serve®

Bob Cross -- Sept 2010

A message from George Brown President of Friendship Force International

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Friendship Force. By joining the UK Voyager Programme you will be able to gain the benefits of the Friendship Force even if you live in a community that currently does not have its own local chapter (club).

The Friendship Force has been active in the UK since 1977. Until recently, however, the only way to participate in an international culture exchange was to live in a community with its own club. With our new UK Voyager Programme this is no longer the case. Wherever you live, you will be connected via the Internet with opportunities to travel as a friendship ambassador to another country. Our Voyager Co-ordinator will keep you informed regarding exchange opportunities as well as other activities in your region.

I hope you will take a few minutes to learn more about our organization and how you can become an active member. You are likely to meet some interesting like-minded people in your own community. But more importantly, you'll be invited to join outbound cultural exchanges that put you in the home of Friendship Force members in other countries. You'll experience their culture from the inside. It's fun, educational and affordable.

Travelling with the Friendship Force has changed the way I see the world--and it can do the same for you. Best wishes as you embark on this new adventure

In friendship,

**George T. Brown, Jr.
President, Friendship Force International**

--ordinary people who are committed to the idea that they can make friends with people across the barriers which normally divide us

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Introduction

An introduction to Friendship Force and the Voyager initiative.

'Friendship Force Speak'

An introduction apology for using Friendship Force terms, a set of definitions is included in the booklet, see below.

A Brief History of Friendship Force

A brief history, lifted from another Friendship Force document.

So what's it all about?

A definition of why Friendship Force exists.

So how does it work?

Basically how are exchanges set up and how do they work.

How can I get involved?

The different ways regular members and Voyagers can get involved.

What is a Friendship Force club and what does it do?

What is a club and how does it function.

What is a Friendship Force Exchange?

What is an exchange, with some examples of different types.

How do I apply to join an exchange?

How to apply to go on an exchange and what to expect when you apply.

Appendices

How does a Friendship Force Exchange Work

This is based on a guide produced by the president of the Manchester Club to show his members how to run an inward exchange.

Sample Application Form

These forms do change from time to time and it is always advisable to request an up to date one from the ED running any exchange you are interested in.

Exchange Lists

This is just a snapshot of what was available at the time this booklet was printed. A current list of UK outward exchanges can be found at www.friendshipforce.org.uk while a list of exchanges originating in other countries which currently have vacancies can be found in 'The World of Friends Catalog' at www.thefriendshipforce.org

Definition of Friendship Force terms:

FFI (Friendship Force International): This is Friendship Force's parent organisation which is based in Atlanta, Georgia, in the USA. It is the body that co-ordinates the FF programmes around the world, setting up exchanges between locations around the world.

Home Stay: The opportunity to live in a host's home along with the host and their family and experience their culture and hospitality. This should not be confused with house swapping where the traveller stays in their hosts' home when the host is absent.

Home Hosting: The provision of a home stay.

Host: Member of hosting club who is actively involved in an incoming exchange.

Home Stay Host: The individual, couple or family who host ambassadors in their home.

Day Host: Someone who for whatever reason cannot offer home hosting but is willing to take ambassadors out for all or part of a day during the exchange.

Ambassador: The person, couple or family who travel to another location to be home hosted.

Exchange: The Friendship Force experience. The term goes back to the early days when FFI ran reciprocal exchanges. These days it refers to the opportunity to exchange cultures.

Inward Exchange: Refers to an exchange the club is hosting.

Outward Exchange: Refers to an exchange when the club is travelling.

Friendship: Hopefully this is self explanatory.

Force: A term which some find difficult to understand in the 21st century. Its origins are that Friendship Force is a force for good. It has been likened to 'The Force' in the Star Wars Movies which were first released around the time when Friendship Force was conceived.

Club: The local group of Friendship Force members which is responsible for running inward and outward exchanges.

Chapter: Used as an alternative to club in some countries.

E.D. (Exchange Director): Individual who, often along with an exchange committee, is responsible for running a particular exchange. EDs are usually appointed specially to run one exchange. It is a role that passes around between club members.

All UK: A term which is used to describe exchanges which are open to members of all UK clubs. These may be special interest exchanges, spectacular exchanges, or just club exchanges which are opened up to recruit more ambassadors.