**Preliminaries for Interchange:**

**If the Applicant will be 12 or 13 years of age (at least 1 day)…**

**Between June 1 and August 31 - you are eligible for an “A” interchange**

**What is interchange?**

While based on the same educational principles as CISV’s camp based programs, Interchange encourages a deeper encounter between two cultures by placing young people within families. Group activities such as a mini-camp are vital in complimenting the intense in-depth family experience.  Interchange takes place in two phases with one delegation visiting another country and then reciprocating by hosting the delegation from the country they visited.  Not only is this a profound intercultural experience for the youth participant, but it also engages the whole family, and potentially the community in which they live, in the CISV experience.

The program has two aspects, each having equal priority: the family aspect and the group aspect. By living in a family, the guest gains insight into another way of family life, discovers the social structure within the family, and obtains substantial cultural and educational background information offered by the hosts.

In balance with the family aspect, the group aspect includes a number of different kinds of activities. The leader arranges opportunities for the group to meet together to create a group feeling and to prepare activities and social events. The leader also arranges learning experiences where topics about both countries are explored and discussed (family life, different customs and habits, food, education, religion, weather, etc.). Each delegation is responsible for planning a number of group activities during their partner's visit, so that all of the youth have a chance to get to know each other and the other families.

**Interchange Selection Process**

The primary qualifications and attributes considered by the Interchange Selection Committee are that the candidate:

* Must be within the age range specified in the Interchange invitation some time between June 1 and Aug 31 or at the start of the Interchange Program
* Is physically and emotionally healthy, and demonstrates self-discipline,
* Is comfortable being separated from family and friends for four weeks,
* Is responsive to authority
* Makes friends easily and is readily accepted by others,
* Communicates effectively with adults and peers
* Assumes responsibility and works within a group
* Has a positive, flexible personality - able to adjust to differences in schedules, activities, cultures, foods, etc
* Accepts others without prejudice, regardless of race, religion, language or culture
* Is able to commit **significant** time (January-June) in preparation of the group for the Interchange experience

The participant's family must also be:

* supportive of the concept of Interchange
* flexible
* able to provide adult supervision during the hosting phase of the Interchange
* willing to work with other parents in the Interchange to schedule hosting activities

**Costs:**

Depending on flight costs, you can expect to spend in the range of $3000-$5000 for both phases of travel.

**Interchange Application Directions**

1. **Download the following forms at www.dfwcisv.org website under FORMS tab Interchange Application Forms**

* Interchange Information Form for Youth Delegates (1 copy, plus descriptions)
* Youth Delegate Reference Form (Print 2 copies)
* Interchange Family Reference Form (Print 1 copy)
* Participant involvement form (Print 1 copy)
* Parent commitment form (Print 1 copy)
* Interchange Agreement
* Background Check Form (1 copy for each family member over the age of 18)
* Please make a photocopy of each parents’ driver's license (and/or any person who will be driving the kids - must be 25 or older).
* 20 hours of family volunteer activity for CISV DFW.\*\*

**Additional Notes:**

1. We appreciate having applications in as early as possible to help us plan for selection. If you are past the deadline, please contact Melanie Lipscomb to see if we are still accepting applications.

2. Enclose $50 application fee made out to CISV-DFW

3. References - **Provide two Youth Delegate References**- One from a current teacher and one from an adult who knows your child in a non-school setting (coach, youth leader, family friend, etc.) **and one Interchange Family Reference** – filled out by friends, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone that knows your family well.

On the Reference Forms, fill in:
Child's name
Check Interchange box under "youth is applying for"
Due date of form is **December 1**

Provide the referees (persons providing your youth references) with a stamped and addressed envelope so that they may send it directly to Melanie Lipscomb.

Once completed, mail: check (made out to CISV-DFW) and all forms to Melanie Lipscomb or

Sandra Silva.

We would like these forms no later than **November 15**.

**\*\*Volunteer requirements for the program year:**

* CISV DFW is an all volunteer organization.  We expect each of our families participating in traveling programs to volunteer a minimum of 20 hours per participating program year.   This is 20 hours **in addition to** your youth’s traveling program delegation meetings. We define volunteering as helping with our hosting programs and local activities.   Part of our application package includes a Parent Commitment form with a volunteer interest survey.  Your child’s application is not complete without the return of this form.  We will be contacting families based on this interest survey.  Thanks for your support of CISV DFW!

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| **Questions?****cisvdfwinterchange@gmail.com**Local Interchange Chair |  **Mail or Drop Off Forms to:** Sandra Silva Melanie Lipscomb 706 Normandy 8734 Clover Meadow DriveEuless, TX 76039 Dallas, TX 75243 |
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