

# Friendship Force of Cheyenne

## FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What do you mean by the term “Exchange?”

**Answer:** An “Exchange” is a visit to or from a club in another part of the world or another state. This involves home hospitality, the heart of a Friendship Force exchange, which provides the opportunity for people of different countries and cultures to connect at a personal level. We refer to it as an “Outbound Exchange” when we visit another club. Often an optional tour of the area follows an exchange. An “Inbound Exchange” occurs when a club visits us. We try to schedule one outbound and one inbound exchange per year that are arranged by our International organization. More information is on our [Calendar](#) page.

### 2. Do you travel as a group?

**Answer:** Yes and no; the group usually consists of 20 to 25 individuals, known as “Ambassadors.” Travel arrangements vary from departing the local airport as a group to some individuals making their own travel arrangements and meeting in a specific location in the host city at a definite time. The latter provides the most flexibility, but group travel can contribute to a more rewarding experience. The method of travel is a decision made by the Exchange Director.

### 3. What is an “Exchange Director?”

**Answer:** An Exchange Director” (ED) is an individual who has applied and been approved by the Board of Directors to plan, organize, and lead the Exchange. 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 with a 9 to 12 month lead-time. Our club about once a year conducts an Exchange Director Workshop; all interested individuals may participate.

### 4. What is involved in becoming a member of The Friendship Force?

**Answer:** Join The Friendship Force if you believe in the goals and mission of the organization; you like the challenge and excitement of new people, places and experiences; you believe that friendship among people of different countries and cultures can make the world more peaceful; and you have a curiosity about the world and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. The Membership Application and contact person are on our [Membership page](#).

### 5. How do I find out what is happening in the club?

**Answer:** We meet monthly (except during the summer) at times and places shown on our website: [www.FriendshipForceCheyenne.org](http://www.FriendshipForceCheyenne.org). Check out our club’s website for more info. On the international level, go to: [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org).

**6. I don't see myself traveling in the next year or so, should I still join?**

**Answer:** Certainly! Friendship Force is not a travel club; there are many other aspects of involvement. The mission of Friendship Force is building global goodwill through personal friendships. This can be accomplished in other ways. You might consider being a home host, a day host, a small group dinner host, or someone who attends social activities to build friendships with individuals who have an interest in the goals of Friendship Force International.

**7. What do you mean by the term "home host?"**

**Answer:** You agree to share your home usually for seven days and nights with someone from another country or state. It is a way to learn about another culture without leaving home. You will have the opportunity to participate in a number of group/club outings so you won't have to plan everything for you and your guest. There will still be time to share your special interests and places with your guest. The cost of events, admissions and outside meals is paid for our visitors by our club, using the fees the visitors have paid in advance. But as you would host a friend in your home, you host without compensation for meals at home and transportation in your car.

**8. Since I am a single woman, would I be matched with another woman?**

**Answer:** Yes, that is usually the situation, while couples normally host another couple. There are exceptions, but it is your decision. Frequently, the number of bedrooms and type of bed(s) available play a part in matching hosts and ambassadors (guests) as do interests and occupations. Also, traveling as a single woman is easier when you are with a group and a family; you are not alone.

**9. Will I have the opportunity to communicate with my host or guest prior to his/her arrival?**

**Answer:** Usually that is the case. It is amazing how many foreign guests and hosts have e-mail. *Important:* As soon as possible, contact your host/ ambassador by e-mail, letter, or phone. For many, friendships, communications, and private visits continue for years after, and sometimes a lifetime.

**10. What are the responsibilities of a "home host?"**

**Answer:** A home host invites his/her guest to be a part of the family for the time the exchange is in your community. Involve your guest in the activities of your family. Participate in all official functions that are planned and attend all scheduled workshops. If you have an obligation during the exchange that is of such a nature that you are unable to take your guest, inform the Exchange Director and a "day host" will be arranged to accompany/entertain your guest on your busy day.

**11. Exactly what is a "day host?"**

**Answer:** It is someone who wants to participate in the exchange but, for whatever reason, is unable to home host. This individual volunteers to escort an ambassador for one or more days to a scheduled activity or, if it is a day when no group activity is planned, decides how and where to spend the day with the guest. It would be a good idea to discuss this with the guest so the activity you plan is something of interest to both of you.

**12. What would be expected of me if I volunteer to be a “small group dinner host?”**

**Answer:** You decide how many guests, in addition to the number in your family, you feel comfortable having for dinner on an evening specified by the Exchange Committee. The menu is your choice and generally you provide the main course and arrange for your invited local hosts to bring a salad, dessert, appetizer, or wine. It is entirely up to you. The evening is for you to plan whether you play a game or just visit. The whole idea is to share the culture of your guests and give them the opportunity to visit another home and meet others. When space allows, members, new and potential members are included as guests. Of course, the guest’s local host family accompanies them to your dinner. Sharing, fun, laughter and conversation are the goals for the evening.

**13. Do you plan visits to clubs in the United States?**

**Answer:** Yes, there are over 100 clubs in the United States and clubs can arrange what are called “Domestic Exchanges” or “Inter-club Exchanges” with another club where there is a mutual interest in such a visit.

**14. What types of social activities does the club have?**

**Answer:** The club normally meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM for a Pot Luck Dinner & General Membership Meetings are at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church - 19th St. & House Ave. Check the website for date or any other changes [www.FriendshipForceCheyenne.org](http://www.FriendshipForceCheyenne.org) . Exceptions are when we are hosting an incoming club; then the social events associated with that exchange are our meeting. Meetings usually feature a meal, speakers, or parties. Topics include places we are visiting or hosting, world events, cultures of other countries and topics of interest to those who enjoy international culture, travel and friendship. During the year we typically have a picnic and /or a holiday party. Other events may be planned as well. We hold Leadership Board meetings once a quarter.

**15. What should I expect financially when I go on an Outbound Exchange**

**Answer:** On an outbound exchange, we who are visitors have all or most of our expenses paid by the host club and their members; we pay for our own transportation to the host country and a fee to Friendship Force International for the exchange; some of that fee is paid to the hosting club to entertain us. If there is a tour before or after the exchange, you would pay the cost of the tour if you choose to go.

**16. Am I required to host or go on Outbound Exchanges if I am a member?**

**Answer:** There is no requirement by our club for members to host visitors or go on outbound exchanges. We hope though, that those joining would want to actively participate in these events, as they are how we can best learn about people in other cultures. If you cannot host or travel, you may still be a day or dinner host or participate in other ways.

**17. What if I am not able to go or don’t care to go on the Outbound Exchange you have scheduled? Are there other ways for me to travel with the organization?**

**Answer:** There are a number of other ways to travel. You may travel with another club from this country if they have room for you. There are Mission and Discover trips that

include people from several countries where the Ambassadors travel somewhere and stay mostly in hotels but meet people from that country to interest them in forming Friendship Force Clubs. Several Festivals are held each year in different parts of the world where all are welcome to come to stay in a hotel but meet people from the area; there may or may not be home stays offered after the Festival. Regional and International Conferences are held each year. See the list of exchanges and events on the [Friendship Force International](#) website.

**18. How much are membership dues?**

**Answer:** Dues are for the calendar year. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual member or \$40 for a household membership (two or more people at the same address). Dues are payable by December 31<sup>st</sup>. for the following calendar year. The Membership Application and contact person are on our [Membership page](#).

**19. Does your club help people in other countries?**

**Answer:** Not formally. We usually take small gifts for our host family and others we meet on our visits. There is usually a gift given to the host Exchange Director and President.

Our purpose is to be a multi-cultural group that promotes peace and friendship in the world by building global good will through personal friendships and exchanges.

**20. How can I join?**

**Answer:** Just fill out the form on the [Membership](#) page of our website, then send it and a check for the dues to the indicated address. Or come to a monthly meeting for a visit!