



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE – August 2022

Hearing from 2022 IFYE Outbounds now in their host countries

Below are posts from Josie Noland (Iowa to Germany) and Cora Rhode (Colorado to Switzerland).

*From Josie Noland in Instagram (@josie.ifye)
(June 26, 2022) "5 Things I learned in the first 5 days in Germany"*

"Language isn't universal, but love is. Sometimes it's difficult being in a new place where everyone around me is speaking words I don't fully understand at a pace beyond my comprehension. I'm trying to learn German, and the process is full of adventures to say the least. However, I've been pleasantly surprised with how at home I've felt with people who don't share my language. One moment stands out in particular. I was sitting around the table eating dinner with my host family and listening to them converse in German. It was such a simple moment, yet so intimate. I couldn't understand everything being said, but I could absolutely feel the love radiating from my family as they invited me into their lives and gave me a seat at their table to experience those small, everyday moments with them."



From Cora Rhode's Post August 3, 2022 (Colorado to Switzerland) <https://coraifye22.blogspot.com/>

"MY IFYE REALITY/ WEEK 6

The reality of IFYE starts to become very clear the longer you get to stay in your country. Sometimes it's not all peachy, and sometimes you have to go outside of your comfort zone to make things work. Once you pass the anxiety of the first few days, the shock of being in a new culture, and the fears of missing out on things going on back at home...that is when the beautiful part begins. I am six weeks, and halfway through my time in Switzerland. I am tired, taking on so much "new" constantly for that long is draining...but when I start to feel this way, I remind myself that the reality of IFYE is that every day is a new experience, and a new chance to create relationships. I am just starting my time in my third host family. When I left the first family, I wasn't sure it could get much better. My three weeks with the Bieri family was amazing and memorable. Then I arrived at my next host family, my time



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here with the Neidhart's was incredible, just as amazing as the first. Both families were very different. You get very close in three weeks, and by the time you leave, you know your way around the house, what is expected of you, and what your host family likes to do. When you come to a new family everything changes, and you adjust again. Something is so special about the first week with a new family. You really have to get out of your comfort zone and go out of your way to ask them if you can help. I try speaking some Swiss German to make them and me more comfortable, but I also have to be comfortable with silence as they talk to each other in a language I do not understand a lick of.

“Another reality of IFYE is that nothing is promised, and you have to adjust and be flexible daily. I have recently found out that I will no longer be able to travel to Morocco for the last three months of my time as an IFYE. This was all a surprise I wasn't prepared for. I have been anxiously waiting to find out if I will be coming home to Colorado in September, or if I will be traveling to England to complete my IFYE program. Even though my heart aches that I cannot go to Morocco, I have no choice but to be flexible.”

Update: Cora's second host country will be England – Devon County in particular. Morocco was able to host in the summer months, but not able to host in the fall as originally planned.

IFYE Program Highlights

The 2022 IFYE program has 15 IFYEs who are participating in the summer two- or three- month or six-month program, and two (2) who will be participating in the fall program from September 20 to December 8, 2022. There are ten (10) countries that are hosting US IFYEs this year. A total of 14 inbound IFYEs will have host family experiences in 10 states (CO, IA, IL, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, OH and SD). Most of the inbound IFYEs will be returning to their home countries in mid to late August or early September 2022.



IFYE received grants from the United Soybean Board (USB) and the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) to sponsor IFYEs in the summer of 2022. Rachel Gray (NC), Josie Noland (IA), and Jackson Tubbs (IA) are currently in Germany. They received a two-day

orientation in Hamburg with Gene Philhower (United States Soybean Export Council), Kirsten Luxhaven of the USDA Foreign Ag Service office in Berlin, and Roman Heidrich of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM). While they are with host families, they continue to learn more about the international soybean markets, processing, and products. Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director will travel to Germany in mid-August to conduct an in-person, mid-point USB evaluation with the IFYEs.

Sanders Barbee of Kansas received the USCP scholarship and is currently in Morocco. Moroccan individuals have been educating Sanders on the international trade, marketing, processing, and consumption of US sorghum in Morocco. She will be reporting to both IFYE and Sorghum upon her return home.

Applications for the 2023 IFYE program open in late August. Thirteen (13) individuals who were selected for the 2022 program withdrew because of COVID-19 world uncertainty, school, and work obligations. The goal is for three to six of these individuals to re-apply for the 2023 IFYE program.

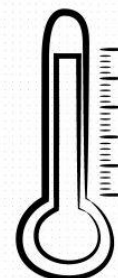
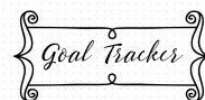
The IFYE Board takes great care to be financially prudent and responsible; however, future program expenses are anticipated to rise. The IFYE Association Board, upon recommendations from the IFYE Program Development Committee and Finance Committee, has approved a 25% increase in program

fees for 2023. Previously, one flat fee (\$3,000) covered the two-, three-, and six-month programs. The new fee structure is \$3,750 for the two- and three-month programs, and \$5,000 for the six-month program per individual. The cost of additional flights for a second host country reflects the difference between the two fee amounts. Fortunately, most individuals recognize the economic value of our program fee when compared to leisure travel on their own.

Marketing and Resource Development Committee

The 2022 Annual Giving Campaign begins August 15! We need the support of our IFYE family to reach our goal of \$65,000. Each donation is a valuable gift. All donations must be dated or postmarked by December 31, 2022, to be counted toward this year's campaign.

All donations are used to support our inbound/outbound IFYE program. We want our program to continue to grow and we need your help to make this happen. Please consider a donation to help a young adult have a great IFYE experience!



Follow 2022 IFYEs on Social Media

Our IFYEs are busy and settled into their host countries. Below are the handles for the summer IFYE participants' social media accounts to follow their journeys. They are all having life-changing adventures. (All handles are for Instagram unless otherwise noted.)

Alec Dompka	@alecifye
Anne Thompson	Facebook: Anne Thompson
Catie Wolyn	@catiewolyn
Cora Rhode	@coraifye22 and blog website: coraifye22.blogspot.com
Dexter Lynch	@dexterlynch
Jackson Tubbs	Twitter: @JacksonTubbsIA
Johari Snell	@jojo-snell3
Josie Noland	@josie.ifye
Marit Hovey	@marit.hovey
Rachel Gray	@rachelgrayyy
Rebecca Pratt	@becca_ifye
Sanders Barbee	Facebook: Sanders.Barbee.7
Sarah Liepold	@sarahliepold
Sophie Cole	@sophieanee and blog website: sophieannee.wixsite.com
Traci Ross	@tribetraci

Farm Bill Progress

The IFYE Association Board members reported our recent Farm Bill efforts in June at the 2022 National Conference in Normal, Illinois. Here is what attendees heard:

- President, Jan Wood and Interim Executive Director, Carolyn Hansen attended IFYE Orientation in Mid-June in Washington D.C.
- Jan and Carolyn traveled to the capital before Orientation with the purpose of visiting some U.S. Representative and Senators. Both Jan and Carolyn feel very positive about our reception and feel that their time was well spent.
- They both visited for about thirty minutes with Ohio Rep. Troy Balderston and his lead Ag Staffer, Michael Kotsovos. Rep. Darrin LaHood met with us for about ten minutes.

- They also met with staffers for Representative Cheri Bustos, IL and Senator Sherrod Brown, Ohio for about thirty minutes each.
- During their walk from the House or Representative office buildings to the Senate office building, Michigan Senator and Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow kindly stopped to chat with them as she was entering the Capital.

There is growing interest in IFYE and our mission. After successful visits in June, we've determined to make a second visit in September just after debriefing of our summer participants. Ken Gordon, who is assisting IFYE with the Farm Bill efforts, is working to set up a presentation to a group of Representatives and Senators by our returning IFYEs in mid-September. The returning IFYEs' own Representatives and Senators will be invited to attend regardless of their membership on one of the Agriculture Committees. The committees will begin drafting the Farm Bill language in late 2022 or early 2023.

YOU CAN HELP

Please go to the IFYE website homepage at <https://ifyeusa.org> and locate the link to 2023 Farm Bill to the right of Member Login. Click to open and download copies of the sample letter and tip sheet the Farm Bill Sub-committee has prepared for your use.

Then write a letter to email to your specific Congressmen and Senators. That letter succinctly outlines the importance of including international agricultural exchange programs in the 2023 Farm Bill under Title III. It also allows each IFYE to add a personal note about their life-changing experience and how important funding is for continuing programs like IFYE.

Please email a copy of your personalized letter to your Congressmen and Senators in Washington, D.C., while also sending a copy to their in-state office. The more letters received, the more visible our cause for inclusion in the Farm Bill becomes.

In addition, all Congressmen and Senators will be visiting their home states during the August recess. Watch your local papers and news outlets for any appearances they might have planned. This is an election year for all Congressmen and women so there are certain to be parades, carnivals, and county fairs that those members will be attending. Introduce yourself as an IFYE and using the sample letter as a guideline, urge your Senator and/or Congressman to support language including international agriculture exchange programs in the Farm Bill under Title III. Share your contact information with them and any aides traveling with them should they need to reach out for more information.

With IFYE support from around the country, we will be able to keep this important program in front of those whose votes are needed to get the language needed in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Thank you in advance for your help. It is vital for all IFYEs to support this effort.