



**SOUTH DAKOTA IFYE ASSOCIATION**  
*Peace Through Understanding*

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***Newsletter: January 2019***

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## **Message from the SD IFYE President...**

Hopefully your 2018 went well! It's that time of the year ---time to say thanks for all that has happened this past year. For our returning outbounds and host families, it's time to reflect on our experiences and how it has affected us and changed us. We need to continue to promote our programs by sharing the IFYE experience. So, please consider hosting or participating in our International Exchange programs.

We are actively looking for a State IFYE Coordinator. This is a paid part-time position which involves helping the IFYE Board coordinate IFYE departures and arrivals, find host families, and lead IFYE orientation. If interested or have questions, please contact me or any IFYE Board member.

Again, many thanks for everyone's efforts. Happy New Year!

Scott Hamilton, S.D. IFYE President  
605-350-1323

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## **National IFYE Program Update**

Uruguay and the Philippines have just been added as participating IFYE countries for 2019! 2018 also marked the return of the IFYE program in Argentina. Additional country contacts are being pursued.

Applications are now being accepted for 2019 IFYEs. Information can be found under the "Foreign Exchange Programs" tab on the IFYE website at [www.ifyeusa.org](http://www.ifyeusa.org). One Missouri applicant has already been interviewed and selected. With our national goal of 20+ outbound IFYEs, we need everyone's help in finding qualified applicants, 19 years of age and older.

IFYE continues to be a rural-based exchange program in host countries. This does not mean that a potential candidate must have agricultural experience. IFYE is open to all young adults who have an interest in learning other cultures. The \$500 financial incentive program announced in 2018 remains in place for 2019. Anyone who recruits an IFYE will receive \$500 once their recruit arrives in their host country.

Debriefing for the 2018 US IFYEs was held in Washington, DC in early December 2018. Returning IFYEs (from CO, IL, MD, ND, MI, OH, MN, and WI) are eager to share their experiences. Please contact Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director at 605-366-6107 or [alanelambert@gmail.com](mailto:alanelambert@gmail.com) to learn more.

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## **"WELCOME HOME" Potluck is January 26!**

Join us on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at NOON for the annual "Welcome Home" potluck at the Davison County Fairgrounds in Mitchell, SD. Shelby Hinkle, Ben Maifeld, and Sara Maifeld---who each spent a month in Japan this past summer---will be sharing their adventures and memoirs following the potluck. Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director, will be sharing his photos and experiences aboard an Alaskan cruise for the 11th World IFYE

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Conference. All are welcome! Join us!

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## Membership Dues and Polo Shirts

In an effort to rekindle the IFYE spirit and continue to provide scholarships from our association, we are asking for your help. A \$50.00 donation to the SD IFYE Association in 2019 will get you TWO things:

1. 2019 annual dues for your membership and
2. A nice quality IFYE polo shirt.

For an additional donation of \$40 we will mail you another polo shirt.

2019 SD IFYE Association membership only: \$15.00.

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

| Size                          | Quantity<br>Unisex | Quantity<br>Ladies | Total: |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Adult S/<br>Ladies S          |                    |                    |        |
| Adult M/<br>Ladies M          |                    |                    |        |
| Adult L/<br>Ladies L          |                    |                    |        |
| Adult XL/<br>Ladies XL        |                    |                    |        |
| Adult XXL/<br>Ladies XXL      |                    |                    |        |
| Adult<br>XXXL/<br>Ladies XXXL |                    |                    |        |

\_\_\_\_\_ I just want a 2019 South Dakota IFYE membership for \$15.00.

**Checks made Payable to South Dakota IFYE Association**

Payment Options:

Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Form to:**

**Wanda Osman**

**3512 W. Eide Drive**

**Sioux Falls, SD 57107**

**Phone: 605-376-6794**

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## **SD Hosts German and Taiwanese IFYEs in 2018**

The summer of 2018 saw two IFYEs --- Lisa Schmid from Germany and Chih Yuan (Peter) Cheng from Taiwan --- visit South Dakota. Both IFYEs were in SD for about three months, June 18th to September 4, 2018.

Lisa Schmid stayed with the following families in South Dakota: John & Beth Simonson, Highmore, SD; Mark & Heidi Zwinger, Colton, SD; and Gordon & Sarah Hagena, Lennox, SD.

Lisa also participated in a new pilot program with Syngenta in Minnesota. Please see the articles later in the newsletter highlighting this job shadow program.

Chih Yuan (Peter) Cheng from Taiwan was hosted by these families while in South Dakota: Bill and Wanda Osman, Crooks; Duane and Sheryn Ekstrum, rural Kimball; Don and Theresa Fink, rural Armour, SD; Jim & Kim Petik, rural Keldron, SD; and John and Joyce Schlim, Rapid City.

Many thanks to these families for their dedication to the IFYE program! Stay tuned for host family experiences in this newsletter.

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## **Family Shares IFYE Hosting Experience**

by Beth Simonson, host mother to Lisa Schmid

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**Lisa Schmid and her host father, John Simonson, at Mt. Rushmore.**

We thoroughly enjoyed sharing our home, farming practices, culture, and the great state of South Dakota with 2018 IFYE Lisa Schmid from Germany. We were her first host family. In the beginning, I don't think she understood us very well. However, she was a quick learner and asked a lot of questions. Before long, she was communicating much better. She jumped in and helped with our farm work whenever she could. Unfortunately, the weather was kind of rainy while she was here and she didn't get to do as much as she would have liked to. Highmore is in the middle of the state and when we do any major shopping we go to Pierre. She was able to tour the state capital and museums there. Her time with us was very full of activities and went far too fast.

Since we were the farthest west host family, we decided to take her out to the western side of the state. We had quite the experience with the buffalo in Custer State Park. She saw our country's patriotism at the lighting ceremony at

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Mt. Rushmore. In Belle Fourche, she attended a rodeo and fireworks on the 4th of July. We finished our trip with a short stop at Devil's tower in Wyoming. Before we knew it, it was time to take her to her next host family.

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## **Zwinger Family Hosted Lisa Schmid from Germany**

by Heidi Zwinger

Our family was lucky enough to host Lisa Schmid from Germany for three weeks this summer. During her stay with our family we visited a few local attractions, like Falls Park in Sioux Falls and Devil's Gulch near Garretson, SD. Because Lisa was here during our county fair, she was able to see, assist and even participate in many of our 4-H activities. She was more than happy to help with the many tasks required for showing dairy cattle at the Minnehaha County Fair. Lisa hauled small square bales, clipped calves, carried many bags of feed for the milk cows, as well as helping with the milking while at the Fair. Our 12 year old son Brody really enjoyed having some extra help!

It wasn't all work and no play though. During the Fair we were able to attend some country music concerts and a rodeo. On days prior to the county fair, Lisa spent the day with me at Boadwine Farms, the 2,000 cow dairy I help manage. While on the dairy farm Lisa and I spent many hours comparing agriculture in Germany and the U.S.. Lisa was also able to test drive a new John Deere 9520RX track tractor while visiting Mark at the John Deere dealership where he works. I have to say we truly enjoyed our time with Lisa. She is a lighthearted and fun loving person who was very interested in learning all aspects of our American culture.

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Lisa Schmid and 2018 SD Host Family: Heidi, Brody and Mark Zwinger.



Lisa Schmid, 2018 IFYE, helps with milking chores during the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls.

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# IFYE Pilots 'Job Shadow' Program

## An Unlikely Exchange

by Jager Robinson, Tri-State Neighbor Reporter  
Living with six families over three months all while job shadowing is already a unique task. Add in moving to a completely new country and you have the life of Lisa Schmid, an IFYE representative. IFYE began in 1948 as International Farm Youth Exchange, transitioned to International 4-H Youth Exchange in the 1970's, and since the 1990's, is known as IFYE.

Schmid, 23, embarked on her international agriculture exchange this past summer where she lived with three families in South Dakota over the course of nine weeks. What made Schmid's experience unique from the other IFYE delegates was that she served as the pilot representative for a new program - international corporate ag job shadowing.

IFYE Association of the USA, an exchange program to place young adults in different rural places across the globe, partnered with Sygenta's Minnesota regional office to see how exchange participants would handle a snapshot of U.S. corporate ag life.

Schmid grew up and lives in Stendal, Germany, just a 50 minute train ride away from Berlin. Her brother, a former IFYE student, encouraged her to try the program to broaden her ag knowledge before returning home to work on the family farm.

Unlike most of Western Europe, Eastern Germany has fairly large operation sizes similar to those in the Midwest. Schmid's family farms several thousands acres of wheat and corn, and works with a small number of livestock.

"I was open to everything and my expectations have been completely fulfilled," Schmid said in an email exchange.

## The Corporate World

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During Schmid's time with Syngenta, she had three jobs. Her first and second week at the company was spent at Syngenta's Minnetonka, Minnesota regional office. There, she focused on the inner workings of the company and their development groups.

"That was the real look behind the scenes at how big companies like Syngenta run," said Colin Steen. "It's easy to identify with our products on the front end, but to see what drives our company behind the scenes is the crux of what she picked up."

Steen is the managing director of Syngenta Ventures, the company's corporate investment arm. The second week was spent with Steen and his family while he showed her how Syngenta works with smaller companies. Steen said they spent many hours going over how new technologies from start-ups are helping change agriculture.

Her final week at the company focused on the research and development side. She moved to Stanton, Minnesota and worked with a sweet corn breeder going over how the company works to better its seed hybrids.

"The same problems that our Midwest farmers face here is the exact same as what they're facing on their farm," Steen said.

Currently, Germany is experiencing a very dry year with low yields. Because of this, Steen said Schmid spoke to him about how they are looking for better varieties of seeds and more specific fungicides and pesticides they can put on their crops all the while managing their input costs in a low commodity market.

"They've been looking for the same technologies and solutions that we've been looking at," he added.

Just one week with each family wasn't ideal for IFYE's standard of two to three weeks in each home, but Schmid said she was surprised just how quickly she integrated and became connected with her Minnesota host families.

"It was great that I was allowed to have this experience," Schmid said.

After all of it was over, Schmid said she realized that the fast-paced nature of the job helped her hone her problem solving, communication and leadership skills and better understand her own character and how it fits into a new culture.

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As for Steen, he was just happy that he took the chance on the experience and got to introduce his kids and wife to Schmid and exchange cultures. Steen said his fondest memory was simply driving with Schmid across rural Minnesota and talking about everything and anything.

“I took a lot out of that,” Steen said. “It made me appreciate some of the similarities and differences between our cultures.”

### **The Family Life**

While the point of the pilot was to introduce Schmid to the corporate ag life in the Midwest, she did spend time with three hosts families in South Dakota experiencing rural South Dakota life - which was the main portion of her IFYE experience.

“I was very happy to have families in a second state and to get to know and compare the country life in South Dakota and the city life in Minnesota,” Schmid said.

One of Schmid’s host parents, Sarah Hagen of Lennox, South Dakota, said hosting an international student has become one of the great joys of her life. Schmid was their eighth international student since 2010. Hagen’s daughter’s 4-H advisor introduced her to the idea and then she learned of IFYE and has hosted ever since.

“We always just do the same kinds of things we do with our family,” Hagen said.

Hagen and her family took Schmid to places like Prairie Village and SDSU football games to show her what they do for fun, but also exposed her to their operation, bringing her to check the corn during the growing season. Hagen’s daughters are in college and got to spend some time with both of them and experiencing college-age life on campus.

“You get to know yourself and your character better,” Schmid said. “And you learn what is important to yourself and what is superfluous in life. You focus on the essential things in life and for the future.”

Hagen keeps in touch with all of her exchange students, and has plans to visit

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them when she and her husband get the chance to travel.

“It promotes international relationships and goodwill,” Hagen said. “It gives them a chance to learn that Americans are not all of what you see on TV.”

For Steen, his experience made him realize how lucky he was to be a part of something that helped push his company and himself to new territories. Steen said he’d definitely be a host parent again if the opportunity came up.

“Now that there are three of us who can put our hands up, it was really good,” Steen said.

Currently, IFYE is taking applications for its exchange program at [www.ifyeusa.org](http://www.ifyeusa.org) and has been making plans for another corporate exchange program in other countries.

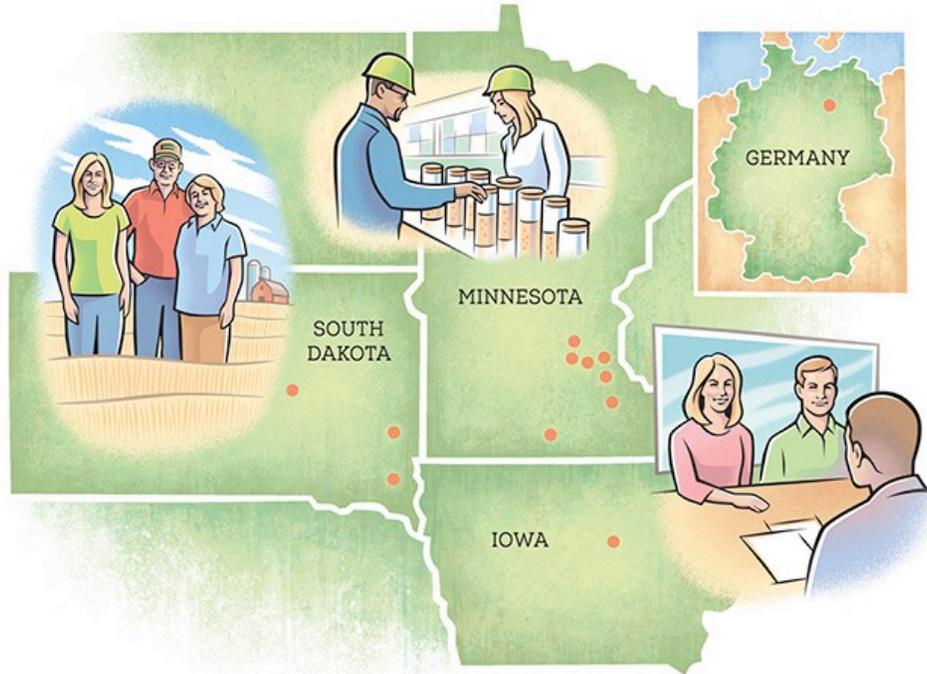
While Lambert said not each exchange student will get to do what Schmid did, the entire program depends on finding the right fit for the right job in the country they are going to.

“It’s all on faith and trust,” Lambert said. “The organization for 70 years has been built on that concept.”

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## Syngenta's Look at the IFYE Partnership



**This map highlights the places Lisa Schmid visited during her stay in the SD and with Syngenta hosts in Minnesota.**

By Shane Norris, for *Syngenta Thrive* - Fall 2018

Illustration by Erwin Sherman / Photography by Tim Pearson

Growing up in Stendal, Germany, about two hours west of Berlin, Lisa Schmid got an early taste of other cultures. Throughout her youth, her family hosted three students, two from the U.S. and one from Finland, through IFYE, formerly known as the International Farm Youth Exchange. This two-way cultural exchange program enables American young adults to live and work with host families in other nations and vice versa. Her brother also took part in IFYE, visiting Kansas. To Schmid, it only made sense to keep the family tradition going by visiting the U.S. with IFYE in the summer of 2018.

“I wanted to learn more about agriculture in a different country,” Schmid says. “I study agricultural science and grew up on a farm, so it was interesting to see how things work in a new place.”

As familiar as IFYE was for Schmid, it was a new and exciting opportunity for Jenny Heaton, head of people and organization development for Syngenta in

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North America. Heaton first heard about the program at a Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences conference and knew Syngenta would be a great fit, as IFYE looked to move into the corporate space.

“I hoped to pilot the program in a way that we can replicate, so we can start thinking differently about introducing Syngenta opportunities to youth earlier—before they make major career-related decisions,” Heaton says.

### **Planting the Seeds for a New Experience**

IFYE typically places foreign students with four U.S.-based agricultural families in a single state, with students staying at each home for three weeks. Schmid had three assignments in South Dakota with farm families. But her three-week stay in Minnesota with Syngenta was unique.

Heaton wanted Schmid to experience the broad spectrum of corporate agriculture, so she worked out a plan to have a different host family for each of the three weeks.

“I selfishly wanted to be a part of the host experience in our first pilot,” says Heaton. But she made sure Schmid’s experiences with her three Syngenta hosts were all unique and worthwhile.

In her time with Heaton, Schmid saw the diversity of work in agriculture, jumping headfirst into human resource initiatives, such as leadership development programming and organizational design.

In addition to Heaton, Schmid spent a week shadowing Colin Steen, managing director of Syngenta Ventures, part of the global business development arm of Syngenta, and a week with Ilene Jones, a Syngenta sweet corn breeder.

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**Left to right: Jenny Heaton, Lisa Schmid and Colin Steen relax for a moment at Syngenta Seeds, Inc., in Minnetonka, Minnesota.**

### **Different Lands, Common Roots**

Steen, like Schmid, spent his early years experiencing new cultures. He grew up on a farm in Canada, but traveled to Australia in his youth to experience agriculture on the other side of the world. When he heard Syngenta was piloting IFYE, Steen was quick to volunteer. While Schmid spent time with Steen, they discovered that they had a lot more in common.

“As I’ve learned more about the farming where Lisa grew up, I’ve realized it’s very similar to places in the U.S. and Canada,” Steen says.

Schmid’s time with Steen also gave her a chance to see more than the two

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states that IFYE assigned to her. The pair traveled south to Iowa to meet with representatives from companies that are prospective investment opportunities for Syngenta.

“When we visited prospective companies to invest in, it was great to get Lisa’s perspective of how those technologies would fare in Germany,” Steen notes.

### **From Seeds to Schnitzel**

On the third leg of her Syngenta journey, Schmid dove into the science behind the Syngenta seed industry. With Jones, she toured the Syngenta Seedcare Institute in Stanton and learned about the company’s sweet corn breeding program at other area research sites. Schmid also had a chance to experience the Syngenta commitment to equality and diversity, by participating in a training session that the Syngenta Women’s Leadership group conducted.

“Our week was action packed,” Jones says. “From visiting the labs to touring local attractions, including the Minnesota Zoo, I think we both enjoyed the week. Lisa even shared her culture in the kitchen, by preparing us a classic German schnitzel.”

### **Beyond the Fields**

IFYE is not just about exploring how different places grow food and raise livestock. For Schmid, it’s also an important opportunity to learn more about global culture.

“It’s nice to spend time with the families and learn more about the language and culture in America,” Schmid says. “It’s a different experience to live with someone versus traveling on vacation.”

That’s a sentiment Heaton echoes. “I have three young boys at home, and learning about new cultures is very important to our family,” she says. “So, it was great to have Lisa talk to my children about where she’s from.”

Schmid is nearly finished with a master’s degree in agricultural sciences at Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, where she also earned her

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bachelor's degree in agriculture. She hasn't decided on a career path after school, but is leaning toward helping run the office at her boyfriend's family farm. No matter what she ultimately does, she plans to use her knowledge gained from her time in the U.S.

"All the other IFYE participants spent their time on farms in one state," Schmid says. "I was able to experience farm life in South Dakota and then learn about other aspects of agriculture in Minnesota and Iowa. It was an amazing adventure that I'll always remember."

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## Taiwanese IFYE Enjoys South Dakota

by Wanda Osman, Peter's host mother



**Wanda Osman, Mary Jo Osman, Liz Osman, and IFYE Chih-Yuan Cheng from Taiwan display the 4-H and Taiwanese flags near the Osman home near Crooks.**

The summer of 2018 found the Osman family hosting Chih-Yuan Cheng, better known as Peter. Peter was an IFYE from Taiwan visiting host families in South Dakota. He was a delightful young man, always interested and willing to participate in whatever we were doing. Peter took an active part in our home

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life, whether it was cooking a meal or working in the garden. He attended two family reunions, church services, and just went for walks or runs with his host sisters. He took in the local sites of Palisades, Falls Park, and down town Sioux Falls.

Jackie Ekstrum Lent took Peter for the day on several occasions. They toured a dairy, spent a day at EROS, attended soccer games, and spent time with her family. Karen Kluin also included Peter on a trip to USD, Mary Jo Wagner Arboretum, and other local sites. "The Uncles" took Peter to SDSU campus, the Harvey Dunn Museum, McCory Gardens and of course Nick's Hamburgers. Peter also attended the State Fair with a friend and toured Hydrogreen Global Technology.

It was sad to see Peter go, but he left having a very memorable and fun experience while in SD. We, as a host family, also have many good memories of Peter. Hosting is a great experience. It opens your eyes to not only a culture from another country, but helps us to see our own unique life and culture with new eyes. I think many people are reluctant to host because they don't have time. My reply is just take them with you and let life happen. It will be a great experience.

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## **SD IFYE Association & State's 4-H Relationship Changes**

For many years, the SD IFYE Association has, with authorization of the South Dakota State 4-H office, administered the 4-H age international exchange programs for South Dakota 4-Hers and volunteer host families. The SD IFYE Association leadership has worked with States 4-H International Exchange Programs (S4HIEP) in Seattle, who is authorized by USDA and 4-H to conduct the nationwide exchange programs. South Dakota is one of 22 states that participate in the summer month long exchange programs.

In recent years, South Dakota 4-Hers have lived with host families in Japan, Norway, Finland and Costa Rica. Additionally, over a hundred South Dakota host families have opened their hearts and homes to international visitors for

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similar month long experiences.

Beginning for the 2019 year, States 4-H (S4HIEP in Seattle) will work directly with the South Dakota State 4-H office to fully conduct the exchange program in all aspects. This will help to eliminate some potential liability exposure to the program, as it will now being administered totally within the 4-H system.

The SD IFYE Association will continue to work with the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. to conduct the IFYE exchanges for young adults age 19 and above. Three or six month outbound programs with nearly 20 countries are available in 2019. Scholarship monies are available for 2019 SD IFYE Representatives to help offset the program fee for each individual. South Dakota will continue to host inbound IFYEs for three months (typically mid June through early September) annually. Families generally host for approximately three weeks, integrating the IFYE into their daily activities. More detailed program information can be found on the [WWW.IFYEUSA.ORG](http://WWW.IFYEUSA.ORG) website, or by contacting Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director at [alanelambert@gmail.com](mailto:alanelambert@gmail.com) or 605-366-6107.

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## **National IFYE Conference Planning in Full Swing**

Kentucky IFYEs are excited to host the 2019 IFYE Conference, August 7-11 in Lexington, Ky. The event will be held at the Downtown Lexington Hilton, which is offering a group rate of \$129.00 per night with parking and a full breakfast for each room occupant. *Plans are to have full registration details online by January 2019.*

In addition to our annual meeting agenda, tours to Bourbon Country, Horse Country and Historical landmarks will be available. Music is planned with superb 4-Hers in the Creative Arts programs. Story Telling as a backbone of our history will be explored with a well-renowned Kentucky Chautauqua speaker.

Mark your calendars now to visit the land of "My Old Kentucky Home." Kentucky is promising a great convention and fun with your forever IFYE Brothers and Sisters.

If you anticipate bringing children, please inform Cathy Kunkel-Mains, Chairperson, so appropriate plans can be made for their care and activities.

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Cathy can be reached at [cakuma50@gmail.com](mailto:cakuma50@gmail.com).

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## ALASKA HOSTS 11th World IFYE Conference



**Alan Lambert (top, back), 1980 IFYE from SD to Germany, poses at the 2018 World Conference with past IFYEs to Germany.**

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IFYE USA and IFYE Philippines: Planning meeting on 2018 IFYE World Conference cruise. The Philippines is joining the 2019 IFYE program. Back: Alan Lambert (IFYE National Program Director), Art Deisher (2018 IFYE Association President), Rudy Mostar (2019 Philippines IFYE Pres). Front: Mike Dumlao, Gonzalo Catania, Gladys Maninantan, Ken Gordon (IFYE Association Executive Director).

2018 marked the first time a World IFYE Conference has been conducted using a cruise venue. IFYEs from all over the world gathered September 8 - 16, 2018 in Alaska. In fact, many IFYEs mentioned they registered for this World IFYE Conference because of the Alaska cruise component.

Several IFYEs began the World IFYE Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and took advantage of the opportunity to arrive early and explore the area. The cruise took the “Inside Passage” route from Vancouver to Seward, Alaska. Ports of call included Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. The ship sailed into Glacier National Park, and all on board were awestruck at the immense size of the glaciers and the ‘calving’ activity. Optional day excursions were in abundance at ports of call: helicopter & plane rides to glaciers, train rides into the wilderness, Alaska history and religious sites and more. IFYE evening activities followed formal dinners, and engaged those in attendance with participatory activities and games.

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Friendships were renewed, and many new ones were formed. And, of course, thousands of photos were taken and shared. 273 individuals from 22 countries were represented: Australia, Austria, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, India, Isle of Man, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, the Philippines, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (R.O.C.), the Netherlands, USA, and Wales.

The next World IFYE Conference is being planned for 2023 in Austria.



**2018 IFYE World Conference - Taiwan IFYEs in traditional costume.**

### **Report on the World Conference polo shirts**

The SD IFYE Association offered polo shirts for sale for participants attending the 2018 World Conference. Shirts were available to order as part of the conference registration. They were white polo shirts with the world conference logo embroidered on them. Jackie Lent, Wanda Osman, and Alan Lambert headed up the project. A total of 113 shirts were sold, with all proceeds going to the SD IFYE Scholarship Fund.

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## **2019 South Dakota IFYE Association Board of Directors**

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