



**IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc.**  
*Peace Through Understanding*

## **IFYE UPDATE – June 2023**

### **Join Us in October for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**



*IFYE is 75 years old, so we (the IFYE Family) plan to celebrate!* Join us for our IFYE-USA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration weekend, October 6-8 in Louisville, Kentucky for fun and some very special days of fellowship, time with friends, and some local adventures in the lovely Louisville area.

Our actual celebration gathering will be the evening of Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> preceded by a reception and a day on your own with family and friends.

We will especially celebrate the special milestones of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1973 IFYE program participants and the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 1998 IFYE participants. As 2023 is the year of the 12<sup>th</sup> World Conference, this event is not a conference but a social event with a special reception followed by an extra special banquet. This celebration event is open to all around the world who are able to join us here in the USA for this weekend celebration event.

Pat Eisenmann Donahue (1971 Ohio YDP to Botswana) and Bob Ellis (1971 IFYE to The Gambia) are your hosts for the weekend.

#### **Celebration Hotel**

The Louisville Holiday Inn East will be our celebration hotel. It will be easy to gather and renew friendships with easy accessibility, free parking, free wi-fi, and the restaurant, bar, pool, and ballroom all on one floor. Register now for the Early Bird registration rate by midnight USA ET July 31 to book your hotel room. At the same time, explore other entertainment options in Louisville that are listed on the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration registration page.



*The IFYE Legacy: 2023 IFYEs During Orientation*

#### **In Honor of Donations**

We have made it possible to donate to the event by honoring special people who have been important to IFYE in your life. There are two ways to make donations to one or more people. You may donate at the same time as you register for the celebration event. For those unable to attend but still wish to support IFYE, please make sure that credit card donations are above \$10 (to cover card fees) and click [Additional Ways to Support the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#).

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*The IFYE Association shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin.*

*ifyeusa.org*

## IFYE Program 2023 Journey Begins

*Melissa Haberstroh, National Program Director*

Orientation was held from June 14-19, 2023, in Washington D.C. for 22 inbound and outbound IFYE Representatives. Arrivals were staggered so that Outbound IFYEs could visit the Capitol and meet their respective Representatives and/or Senators.

Joint sessions were held for both inbounds and outbounds and included:

- REAL Color Personality Assessment
- Culture Shock
- Communication Styles
- Travel Safety
- Photography and Journaling
- Emotional Intelligence with Caroline Homan
- Language Labs
- Alumni Panel Discussion featuring Jackson Tubbs, Sheri Swackhamer, Pat Hutsell, Jan Wood, and Bob Jenkins.

*Orientation Leaders:  
Amaris Daniels, Traci  
Ross, Melissa Haberstroh  
and Hannah Nordby.*



A new introduction this year was a Public Transportation Challenge where groups of inbounds and outbounds worked together to navigate the trains and buses of the Metro system to arrive at Federal Triangle at a certain time.

This challenge was designed to prepare the outbounds for navigating public transportation in their host countries with the assistance of those inbounds who are more experienced.



The Federal Triangle was the starting point for a highlight activity for the IFYEs: a Cultural Gems Scavenger Hunt. New for this year, the hunt lasted two hours and had groups competing to answer trivia questions and complete photo challenges at different sites around Washington, DC.

Groups were a mix of inbound and outbound IFYEs and caused them to work past language and cultural differences to complete each challenge.

The winners of the competition: Eila Erdal (Sweden to VA), Tori Rasmussen (ND to Tanzania), Seoyeon Song (Korea to MO), and Elisabeth Dalke (SD to Austria) were awarded a Visa Gift Card and bragging rights.

The evening was spent dining in various ethnic food restaurants (Ethiopian and Cambodian for example) and followed by a Moonlight Monument Walk.

*IFYE Orientation is different than any other exchange program.* In a few short days, we prepare our IFYEs for the challenges of living with multiple host families in a culturally immersive environment through sessions and workshops. We use icebreakers, songs, and dance to open hearts to craft immediate and life-long friendships.



More than that, we bring young people of varied backgrounds and histories, climates and locales, and levels of travel skill together and create bonds.

The type of bonds where a person who might not otherwise fit in is accepted into a group. Where language is no barrier to a common goal. Where we achieve “*peace through understanding*”.

This is IFYE. This is what we do best.

## 2023 IFYE Delaney Smith

### Current Status/Future Goals:

- Attending Parkland College
- IL 4-H Camp Assistant Nurse/Counselor
- Wishes to intertwine the healthcare profession with her love of travel and desire to learn and understand new cultures.

### Previous International Experience:

- States 4-H International 2019 – Finland, Denmark
- Host Family for Inbounds from South Korea and Spain

### Ag Related Experience:

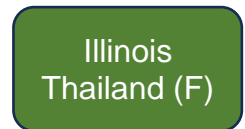
- IL 4-H State Youth Leadership Team
- FFA Chapter Reporter

### Other Experience:

- 4-H, FFA, Soccer

### Interests:

- Agriculture – Agronomy, Horses, Poultry
- Hiking, Photography, Sports



## 2023 IFYE Abbey Schmidt

### Current Status/Future Goals:

- Interested in patent law, her goal is to be certified and focus on patent prosecution in the biotechnology sector.
- Also interested to learn about various types of agriculture in different countries.

### Previous International Experience:

- Thailand, 2019; Portugal, 2023; South Africa, 2022; Morocco 2023

### Ag Related Experience:

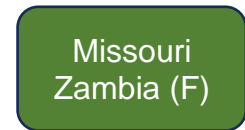
- 4-H, MO Corn Growers, Syngenta

### Other Experience:

- Tax & Transitional Law Society
- Federalist Society

### Interests:

- Hiking, Quilting, Camping



## IFYE 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary Campaign

*Sheri Swackhamer, Marketing Chair*

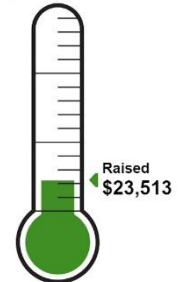
*Russ Mauch & Roger Sherer, Finance Committee*

IFYE's 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary Giving Campaign kicked off with a letter to our IFYE Family introducing our new "Gemstone" giving levels and explaining how we've combined last year's Club 75 with this year's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - into one consolidated giving campaign. From May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup>, we've received: **\$23,513!!**

The Giving Goal by the end of 2023 is \$150,000, which will include all of the Club 75 Giving from last year, combined with this year's giving as well. We want to surpass the Club 75 Giving Goal of \$75,000 and really stretch to give to IFYE's overall operating budget so that we can continue to send IFYEs abroad in 2024. Our intention of receiving 2023 Farm Bill money is not guaranteed. Due to this circumstance, our 75<sup>th</sup> Giving Campaign is vitally important to continuing to send and receive young IFYEs in the coming years.

Fundraising Goal

\$150,000



The 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary Giving Levels are: Copper (\$10 - \$99), Bronze (\$100 - \$499), Silver (\$500 - \$999), Gold (\$1,000 - \$4,999), Platinum (\$5,000 - \$9,999), Sapphire (\$10,000 - \$14,999), Emerald (\$15,000 - \$19,999), Ruby (\$20,000 - \$24,999), Diamond (\$25,000 and up). All donors throughout the 2023 calendar year will be recognized in the 2024 winter IFYE Update and on our website. Those who have given by August 31<sup>st</sup> will be recognized at our 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration in Louisville, KY on Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please use our new [75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Giving Campaign Donation](#). Look under the Heading of "Ways to Give" to find our online donation form to give by credit card.

Thank you in advance for thinking of IFYEs long-term needs. All donations are greatly appreciated!

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Continued

### 75 Years Journey Presentation

Email was sent the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> to give information about how to submit your information that you wish to see used in our presentation at the Celebration. Email questions to: [75years@ifyeusa.org](mailto:75years@ifyeusa.org).

For more information go to: [75<sup>th</sup> IFYE Anniversary Celebration](#) Space is limited, don't delay. For general event questions, please contact Carolyn Hansen, at [chansen@ifyeusa.org](mailto:chansen@ifyeusa.org).

## Farm Bill Progress

Your IFYE officers and Farm Bill Committee continue to monitor the House and Senate Ag Committee activities and to reach out to members of Congress and their ag staff.

The last listening session organized by the House Ag Committee was held in Albany, Oregon on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Committee Chair Glenn “GT” Thompson was present along with Oregon Congresswomen Andrea Salinas (OR-06) and Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-05). Other Ag Committee members were present as well. IFYE alum Nancy Maxwell-Rich, an Albany resident, attended and was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the IFYE Association. Great job, Nancy! Thank you.



The House Ag Committee comment period for the Farm Bill closed June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Oregon listening session will likely be the last listening session for this Farm Bill. The Ag Committees will now be negotiating the bill in earnest.

Our marker bill has not yet been introduced in the Senate Ag Committee as Senator Brown and his staff are seeking a bipartisan co-sponsor. The GOP members of the Senate Ag Committee have taken a “no new programs, no new money” stance. We are still hopeful that the marker bill will be submitted soon.

Now is the time to send emails to your own Congressional representatives. To assist you in drafting your email, we have placed a [sample letter](#) on the IFYE website, [ifyeusa.org](http://ifyeusa.org). The draft letter with options to personalize with your own IFYE information is there to copy and paste into the format preferred by your individual Senators and Congressmen. There is also a link to suggestions for how to send the letter electronically.

Letters are so important at this point as both the House and Senate will be working diligently to create their own Farm Bill drafts this summer. As the August recess approaches, watch for opportunities to connect personally with your Senators and Congressmen at events in your state.

## Re-engage, Re-member, Re-live, Re-connect

*A message from Interim Executive Director, Carolyn Hansen*

The Hansen’s may be downsizing and moving to a new home before the end of the year, so I’ve started going through my many boxes and tubs of prized possessions. I’m sure some of you have already done this. I’m finding it’s fun and sometimes downright difficult. But what has happened is that I am re-living my IFYE/YDP trip all over again. A few things I’ve re-learned:

We used to have to take our pictures on film. I was gone for 14 months, so I had dozens of rolls of film to process. My father had them processed into slides and matched the slides to my letters home, listed each image by roll and number and entered it all on graph paper. Now I have a month-by-month, picture-by-picture guide of what I did in



the Philippines 51 years ago and everything is in his handwriting. You know what? That has not changed in 75 years.

Going through the slides also re-minded me of the impact IFYE has had on my life. Learning a new culture, limping through language lessons, challenging how I used to look at things through non-judgmental eyes have, I hope, made me be more empathetic to others. The American culture is still in its infancy compared to so many others. I did re-learn that there's some wisdom behind what others have done for years, and perhaps it is ok to re-reflect on that once again.

I was re-minded it's OK to not take yourself so seriously. Re-member those faux pas we made and laughed them away. When did I begin to be so staid and afraid of trying something new? I hope we all will be able to laugh at ourselves when we re-member those happenings at the 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

As I re-reflect and re-member my host families, I am re-minded how welcoming and loving they were. Now, as the IL State Coordinator I see how much of a gift they gave me. It's not easy welcoming a new family member into your home, feeding them, caring for them, and making sure they are having a wonderful experience. Maybe I can and should spend more time with the IFYEs who come to Illinois and make sure they truly experience the Land of Lincoln with all its wonders. I also re-remembered that what my parents were hearing in Ohio, were not necessarily what I was going through! Perhaps it's up to me to ensure my inbound IFYE learns about Illinois first-hand, rather than re-lying on the media. Please re-consider the thought of welcoming someone in your home, and volunteer as a host family next year.



All this to say, most of you who are reading this have or will experience that nostalgia that I have. I owe so much of who I am to IFYE. It's time for me to dig deep into my heart (and pocketbook) to see how I can pay forward the opportunity of a lifetime. Maybe it is re-engaging with IFYE by serving on a national committee or the Board of Directors. For others, it's connecting with agribusinesses and organizations and asking for financial support on the national level.

Spiderman said, "With great power comes great responsibility." I'm not much of a Spiderman fan, however I first learned this phrase steeped in religion: "to whom much is given, much is required." I know so many of you who have supported IFYE have lived this phrase. Because of your generosity, the 2023 Outbound and Inbound IFYEs are experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I won't be around in 50 years to see it, but I'm confident they will re-member the summer of 2023, and love it as much as all of us who have been IFYEs, SPIFYEs, and Host Families during the past 75 years.

See you in Louisville where we will re-connect, re-live, re-learn, and re-member our IFYE travels!