



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

IFYE UPDATE – April 2025

Mark Zeug Matching Challenge & Annual Giving Campaign (AGC)

We owe a big thank you to Mark Zeug for offering a matching gift of \$25,000. We reached that goal quickly. I'm sure that Mark is grateful that you honored his wife Helene, in this manner. Thank you to those who contributed to this challenge and made it a true matching fundraiser! Thank you to those who rose to the challenge of reaching that goal.



We also reached our AGC goal with an additional **\$52,886** in donations. These gifts, totaling \$102,901, will be used for program and operating expenses.

2024 Chile Pilot



*Spencer Gee
2024 IFYE from Virginia Pruning Grapes*

Although we said we were not going to have an exchange in 2024, the Agriculture Attache of Chile contacted us to let us know that after two years of collaborating with him, their government and the appropriate NGO organization wanted to move ahead with sending six young adults to the United States. Glenda Snyder and Barbara Spangler, State Coordinators of Virginia IFYE, were already set to send two people who had applied to be IFYEs and were disappointed they could not go.

With help from Pat Hutsell, Deryl Waldren and Keith Ferris, we found two more IFYEs to participate. We called coordinators of states we knew had candidates ready to go.

Unfortunately, because of the timing they were unable to join the exchange. Thank you to all the host families who shared their family and culture with our Chilean IFYEs. We know it is quite different to have an IFYE during the fall, but it all worked out and everyone had meaningful experiences.

2025 – Chilean Pilot Year Two

Because of the success of the program, Chilean officials jumped at the chance to have a second IFYE exchange. This year we will send eight IFYEs and receive eight Chilean IFYEs. This year, however, it will be during the summer months.

2025 Limited Exchange

Because we have long-standing relationships with many countries, we reached out to five countries to see if they would be able to send and receive IFYEs. Two of those countries have given us a "definite maybe," one is going through a restructure like IFYE USA, and two others are

in the middle of the selection process. We are reaching out to other countries trying to arrange a 1:1 exchange in five countries.

What can you do to help and why should you wish to help?

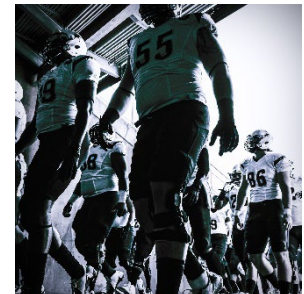
We know many of you have family members who are 19-30 years old. We also imagine that you may know agriculture students in any one of the 112 Land Grant Universities or other colleges and universities. Please reach out to the possible candidates and try to recruit them. Please keep in mind that agriculture and other majors now require international experience for graduation. Although the IFYE exchange is longer than what many schools offer, it is also considerably less expensive and IFYEs have been doing this for a long time. College credit may be available but it will require the IFYE to collaborate with their school's counselors/advisors. The Interim National Program Director can help with sending appropriate letters of confirmation of the IFYE's involvement. Your State Coordinators and State Contacts have received, via email, flyers that can be used to help you recruit.



We need 13 IFYEs and encourage you to help us recruit them. Not only will it be good for the IFYEs, but it will also help plead our case to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees for the Farm Bill.

Bench Strength: Why IFYE Needs You On the Field

As a college football fan, you know the value of a deep bench. The teams that consistently excel are not just relying on their star players; they have a roster full of individuals who can step up, fill multiple roles, and keep the team competitive even when faced with injuries or fatigue. For top-tier programs, bench strength is not a luxury, it's a necessity.



This concept of 'bench strength' is surprisingly relevant to IFYE. To keep this vital our organization running and thriving, we need people to fill crucial roles on the Board of Directors (BOD) and National Committees. Unlike many organizations, IFYE is primarily powered by volunteers, making your contribution even more critical.

Currently, the IFYE BOD consists of only 13 dedicated individuals. At the end of this year, three of us – Immediate Past President Jan Wood, Secretary Barb Batie, and myself (President Carolyn) – are fulfilling our terms and stepping down. Paired with a couple of other departures, this leaves a significant gap in the organization's leadership.

The need is particularly acute in certain areas. We are currently lacking a leader for the Alumni Communications Committee (*and are actively seeking members for the committee as well*). This committee is responsible for the crucial IFYE Updates and IFYE News, ensuring that alumni stay connected and informed (thankfully, our talented editor, Ginny Warner, is still with us).

Please consider serving on the Board of Directors and helping us with our national committees. In the spring IFYE News and at the annual meeting in Colorado, we will revisit these important matters. Feel free to reach out to President, Carolyn Hansen at 309-261-1705 or email her at chansen@ifyeusa.org.

Meet Interim National Program Director (INPD) – Traci Ross Sherlock



Traci is a 2022 alumna who traveled to Norway from Kansas. She has taught elementary school for five years. This year she is a stay-at-home mama to little Kathleen. Traci joined the team as a part-time contractor in February and has been very busy preparing promotional materials and contacting numerous colleges and universities to share our story with their students. If you have questions about the 2025 program, please contact her at tsherlock@ifyeusa.org.

2025 National IFYE Conference in Loveland, CO

The conference is just around the corner, and we can't wait to reconnect with our IFYE friends! Colorado's breathtaking beauty will be the perfect backdrop for our conference. From the stunning mountains to the vibrant culture, it's an ideal setting to share stories, laughter, and memories. Let's make the most of this opportunity to strengthen our bonds and create new adventures together! Friday is the day for tours, you can choose from four thrilling options:



Tour 1

Join us for an enlightening Ag tour through the Front Range, displaying its diverse agriculture. Discover the craftsmanship at Root Shoot Malting, visit a local dairy, and learn about the FFA Foundation Farm. Please note, some areas will require walking and may not be accessible for wheelchairs or walkers. Enjoy a delicious catered lunch as we celebrate the bounty of our region!

Tour 2

Embark on an enriching journey through downtown Loveland! Explore Loveland Museum's captivating exhibits, catch a show at the historic Rialto Theatre, stroll through vibrant downtown, and wander the enchanting Benson Sculpture Garden. Perfect for art and history enthusiasts, this tour promises a day of inspiration. Don't forget to dress for the weather as you enjoy the outdoor afternoon!

Tour 3

Embark on a full-day adventure to Rocky Mountain National Park! While Trail Ridge Road's spring opening isn't guaranteed by May 30, fear not. The lower elevations offer stunning sights. Explore the Fall River Pass Historic District, the informative Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and the serene Bear Lake area. Each stop promises breathtaking landscapes and unforgettable memories, regardless of the weather. Enjoy a boxed lunch amidst the beauty of nature at a nearby campground, weather permitting. Our adventure culminates with a visit to the historic McGregor Ranch, a treasured Colorado Homestead established in 1873.

Tour 4

Join us for an exciting tour featuring Colorado State University Campus, the charming Old Town Fort Collins, and a refreshing visit to Odell Brewery. Enjoy a pint as we explore! Remember to dress for the weather, as we'll be walking and standing both indoors and outdoors. Get ready for a day filled with sights, flavors, and camaraderie!

It's not too late to sign up at www.ifyeusa.org! Spots are filling quickly, so act now to secure your place. Don't miss out on this opportunity, join us and be part of something special.