Each year several young people from Washington go abroad to live in the homes of farm families and share in their work, recreation, and family activities. In return, exchangees from other countries come to Washington state. Nearly 350 Washington families in almost every county have been hosts to IFYE exchangees.

The IFYE program is aimed at promoting understanding among the peoples of the world. Each IFYE learns about another way of life by actually living it instead of just observing it. When he returns home he shares his experiences by giving talks to groups throughout the state.

Nearly every state in the United States participates in the IFYE program which is conducted by the National 4-H Club Foundation. The Cooperative Extension Service coordinates the program in each state and a County Extension Agent and a County IFYE Committee take care of local arrangements in each county.

IFYE is a privately supported program. Money comes from two general sources. The home county of the delegate sponsors him and raises one-third of the cost of an exchange. Two-thirds of the necessary money is provided by the National 4-H Club Foundation from donations by organizations and industries.
IFYE Delegates to Other Lands

IFYE delegates usually spend from six to eight months abroad. They live with several different families in their country, taking part in work and family activities. In some countries they may go from village to village, staying with village improvement leaders.

After they return home, IFYE delegates spend another three months telling others about their experience and sharing the information and understanding they gained while abroad. They speak and show colored slides to groups in their home counties and to other groups throughout the state.

To be an IFYE delegate, a young man or woman must be an unmarried high school graduate between 20 and 30 with knowledge of farm living and experience in rural youth organizations. An IFYE must be mature, stable, and willing to learn another language.

IFYE Exchangees from Abroad

IFYE exchangees spend about six months in the United States. During this time they go to two different states. Exchangees who come to Washington live with three or four different families while they are in the state. They spend about three weeks with each family.

Exchangees take part in family activities and share in work around the farm or home. The host family takes them to meetings of youth clubs and other organizations, too.

The qualifications for IFYE exchangees are similar to those for IFYE delegates from the United States. They are between 20 and 30, have lived on farms at least part of their lives, and are active in rural organizations. Some exchangees are young professionals in 4-H club work or similar programs in their own countries. All speak English.

You Can Be Part of IFYE

- Support your County IFYE Committee. Serve on the committee, help with fund-raising events, or contribute money to sponsor an IFYE going abroad.
- Welcome exchangees in your county. Help their host families make them feel welcome—at church, at meetings, and when you meet on the street. Hear them when they speak to groups.
- Take an IFYE from abroad into your home. Get host family application forms from your County IFYE Committee or county agent.
- Interest qualified young people in becoming IFYE candidates. IFYE is an exciting, demanding experience and we need to send our most able young men and women as grassroots ambassadors.
- Share in the experiences of returning IFYE delegates. Ask your County IFYE Committee or county agent when an IFYE will be available. Suggest that he be invited to your county and interest groups in hearing him.
- Ask a former IFYE to speak when his country is in the news. Even if he has not been there for several years he still writes to friends there and follows events closely.

This circular was prepared by Patricia G. Hite, State IFYE Leader, Cooperative Extension Service, Washington State University.

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