

WELCOME TO THE AFS INTERCULTURAL CLUB TOOLKIT!

Everything you need to build, organize and lead your own club.

Included in this document you will find everything you need to create an AFS Intercultural Club in your school or community.

1. AFS Intercultural Club Outline
2. A sample Club Charter you may adapt to your own needs
 - a. Preamble
 - b. Officer Structure
 - c. Meeting Information
 - d. Voting
 - e. Rules of Order
 - f. How to Amend Charter
3. Ideas for Club Meetings, Activities and Events
4. Recruitment Flyer Templates

Comments or Questions? E-mail us at alumni@afsusa.org

As you use the toolkit, *do not hesitate to contact us with questions or feedback.*

If something isn't working for you, we'd like to know about it so we can fix it. If you love an aspect of the toolkit or a certain topic/activity, let us know so we can provide more resources like it. If there is something you were hoping to find here, but it is absent, let us know so we can help you find a resource to fit your needs.

Additionally, please share your club's story with us! We would love to hear about your meetings and events.

If you have a great activity, successful fundraiser, or event you'd like to share, just let us know! We can feature your club on the Returnee Blog, and potentially in The Passport, the quarterly alumni newsletter.

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AFS INTERCULTURAL CLUB OUTLINE

“What is an AFS Intercultural Club?”

An AFS Intercultural Club is a space for international/intercultural discussion and discovery. It is open to both AFS returnees and non-returnees.

It is a space where returnees will continue growth from their time abroad and will be able to share their experiences and lessons they learned abroad with fellow returnees, members of their AFS Intercultural Club and their community. Club members will be challenged to explore their home and home culture while exploring other cultures, and their subconscious biases and assumptions about the world will be challenged.

It is a space for fun and exciting discoveries. Each week a new topic will be discussed that will open the table to discussion and learning about other countries and cultures, as well as discussing the US and variety of American cultures.

It is a space for building community and helping your community; many community service, volunteering and fundraising opportunities exist for AFS Intercultural Club members.

SAMPLE AFS INTERCULTURAL CLUB CHARTER

Please adjust this Charter as necessary to meet your club's needs and preferences.

PREAMBLE (MISSION STATEMENT)

The AFS Intercultural Club is a group of individuals – both AFS alumni and non-alumni – interested in international and intercultural discussion and discovery, who want to pursue AFS's Mission to build a more just and peaceful world. Members of this club will explore other countries' cultures and discuss their own.

OFFICER STRUCTURE

President

- in charge of leading club meetings, with the assistance of the Vice President
 - monitor discussion and attempt to preserve a level of civility within discussion to ensure club members remain respectful of one another, and to allow all voices and opinions are heard
- decide the order of topics and structure of meetings

Vice President

- will assist the President in managing club meetings
 - take note of speaker order if multiple people wish to speak at once
- listen to ideas or complaints from club members (which will then be discussed with and addressed by the President and other Officers)

Secretary

- take notes at meetings
- in charge of any advertisements or club publicity (such as making flyers/posters for meetings and events)

- make sure club members know what upcoming discussion topics will be

Historian

- in charge of documenting club events (eg. Take photos, have a record of what/when/where events were)
- manage club social media accounts (if club chooses to create any)
 - Please don't forget to use #AFSeffect
- may write articles for the school or local newspaper about club activities/events (this duty may be shared by all Officers and interested club members)
 - Please also share your club's activities, events, and fundraisers with AFS-USA Alumni Relations at alumni@afsusa.org !

Treasurer

- manage any funds the club has
- create a budget for events
- manage fundraising initiatives

Outreach Manager

- outreach to other clubs or community organizations for collaboration

MEETINGS

Meeting Schedule

The AFS Intercultural Club will meet weekly/bi-weekly (*choose one*) on _____ (day of week) at _____ (time) at _____ (location).
 (At the time of this decision, clubs may also want to establish when the first and last meetings of the year will be, and if they will break for any holidays or vacations.)

Meeting Purpose

At each meeting, club members will discuss a different topic relating to international relations or intercultural studies, etc. Alternatively, members may decide to use meeting time to focus on preparation for an event, fundraise, or participate in a related activity. Members may also decide to explore one topic in-depth over the course of several weeks rather than changing their focus weekly.

VOTING

- Each club member has 1 vote.
- Quorum: At least 75% of club members must be present for a vote to be valid.
- A 51% majority is required to win.
- The president of the club will preside at voting meetings.
- The vice president will count the votes, and they will then be recorded by the secretary or historian.
- All club members have the right to vote (including members of the executive team).

RULES OF ORDER

- Discussion should be lively and dynamic; club members must strive to actively participate.
- The AFS Intercultural Club is a safe space of exploration and personal growth. Club members should respect one another and honor each other's right to privacy. (Club members will not share any personal/private information heard during discussion.)
- At all times club members will treat each other and other cultures with respect.
- All opinions are valid and worth listening to.
- Club members reserve the right to disagree with each other and other cultures but must strive to understand the other before passing judgement.
- Agreements and disagreements must be stated in a way that does not alienate any club member.

HOW TO AMEND CHARTER

- Charter amendment requests must be submitted to the Officers at least 1 week prior to voting. Amendments should become available to all club members for review at least 24 hours prior to voting.
- Amendment requests should be accompanied by sound reasoning that supports the desired change.
- For an amendment to pass, it must be agreed upon by a 2/3 majority of all club members.
- Members who are unavoidably absent from the voting session may submit their vote to an Officer prior to the meeting or send a signed slip of paper with another club member, allowing them to submit the absent member's vote.

IDEAS FOR CLUB MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

MEETING IDEAS

What is AFS?

If your club has members who are not AFS returnees, you may want to take some time during your first meeting to explain what AFS is, what kind of work they do, and why it's important to you.

Invite Members to Share from their Personal Experience Abroad

Here are some questions that it might be interesting to answer:

- What was your host classroom structure like?
- What was your school schedule? (daily and year)
- What school supplies did you use? (If you brought any home with you, bring them in to show to your club!)
- What was the dress code?
- What were teacher-student relations like? (Were they casual or formal? Did teachers give extra help? How/when?)
- What were meals like?

- What are some average breakfast meals?
- When/where/what did you eat lunch?
- When did you eat dinner? What were some common dinner meals?
- What are average snacking habits? What kinds of food do people snack on?
- How did you learn your host language? What were your strategies? Who helped you increase your fluency?
- How are houses/apartments laid out? How are they similar/different to houses/apartments in the US?
- How did most people get around? (transportation)
- What holidays did you experience? How are they celebrated?
- How did teen attitudes/interests compare to those of your classmates/friends in the US?
- Anything else you'd like to share!

AFS Teacher's Toolbox

This resource could give you some ideas on how to structure your meetings, and how to foster discussion to allow your club to grow together.

The [AFS Teacher's Toolbox](#) has lesson plans about:

- Human Rights
- Cultural Studies
- Global Awareness
- STEM Education
- Social Activism
- Intercultural Learning

Cross-cultural Communication

Watch these two TED talks with your club and discuss:

[Learn a New Culture \(Julien Bourrelle\)](#)

- What different ways of greeting do you know?
- What other things fall into this category of the "outer shelf" of culture?
 - What is your "outer shelf"?
- What falls into the "inner shelf" of culture?
 - What is your "inner shelf"?
- What do you think would break your barriers? (What would be the common ground upon which you can connect with other cultures?)
- Are you a "peach" or a "coconut"?
 - How do you interact with "peaches"/"coconuts"?
 - What are some ways that you might be able to interact more smoothly? (Share strategies among the group - peaches and coconuts can share the most successful ways to build a friendship.)
 -

[Cross Cultural Communication \(Pellegrino Riccardi\)](#)

- What is "accepted and familiar" for you?
- How can you "dig for more"/"dig a little deeper"/"dig under the surface to find the underlying values"?
- What are some strategies you could use to suspend your judgement/emotional reaction to a situation to allow yourself time to understand the situation?
- Have you ever had to adapt the way you behave to certain cultural or social situations? (society is a way that culture is expressed) For example: do you act differently around your family, friends, or at school?
- What cultures have you experienced?

- Are these aspects of one culture that you prefer to that of another culture? How do you mesh these aspects?

Cultural Norms and Assumptions

Watch this video with your club. [Derek Sivers - Weird, or just different](#)

Discuss:

- What were your reactions?
- What did you learn?
- Had you ever heard of anything like this before watching the video?
- Have you ever experienced a difference like the ones shared in the video? What was it?
- Do you think you have any norms that would be completely unheard of in another country? Try to name some.
 - Pick a couple countries and do some research to see if you can discover what their norm is for various aspects of daily life. (For example: the shape and color of street signs, how to greet someone on the street, what to do when you visit someone's house or welcome a visitor at your house, the way you count your age, how to choose your seat in a classroom, what to call your siblings...)
 - Share your findings with the rest of the group. Do people in the group have different reactions about the information you all found? How can this help you when you visit another country or meet foreign travelers here in the States?
- What are some of the traditions your family has? (holidays, birthdays, 1st day of school...)
 - What culture(s) do these traditions come from? (For example, the 4th of July is part of American culture, Christmas is a part of Christian culture, the way you celebrate birthdays might be a part of your specific family culture - celebrations at school are a part of your school culture).
 - Share and discuss the differences of your cultures.

The Danger of Stereotypes

Watch this TED Talk with your club:

[The Danger of a Single Story: TED Talk](#)

- What are some stereotypes you know?
 - How many of these do you believe to be absolute truths?
 - Which stereotypes do you know to be false? (from personal experience or the experience of someone you know)
- What are some stereotypes about Americans? Are they true?
- Have you ever had someone believe something about you just because of a stereotype?
 - Was it true or false? How did it make you feel?
 - How did you react to the situation?
 - How has it changed your belief in stereotypes?
- Have you ever had a stereotype that you believed proven false?
- How can you reframe "stereotypes" into "generalizations"? (Although both can be "dangerous," the difference is that a generalization leaves room for alternative truths whereas a stereotype proclaims itself to be absolutely true.)

Use these resources to learn more and keep the discussion going.

[The Danger of a Single Story: Lesson Plan](#) (pdf)

[Facing History: Stereotypes and "Single Stories": Lesson Plan](#) (webpage)

Make posters to hang around your school educating people about the facts/falsehoods of stereotypes, and the dangers of only having a single story.

Sounds and Culture

Watch these two videos with your club:

[Onomatopoeia in Different Cultures \(sounds\)](#)

[Onomatopoeia Across Cultures - Human Sounds](#)

- Did you notice that not only are the sounds different, but so are their gestures!
- Discuss: Why do some countries have similar sounds/gestures? (could it be: linguistic and geographic similarities, historical relations, ...)
- Play the video for someone who can't see the screen. Can they guess the correlating language for each sound?
- What gestures in America relate to sound/motion? How does this relate to other cultures?

Language Learning Tips, Tricks and Tools

(consider inviting your school's foreign language club members to join you for this meeting.)

[Learning a Language? Speak it Like You're Playing a Video Game.](#)

- How did you learn your host language while abroad?
 - Which of these tools has remained helpful after leaving your host country?

Other Ideas for Research/Quiz/Discussion/Practice

- How many countries in the world can you name?
 - How many can you identify on a map?
 - Challenge the geography club to a competition!
 - How many flags can you match to their country?
 - How many global alliances can you identify? (eg. UN, NATO, EU, TPP)
 - How many of their member states can you name?
- What other countries have summer camps?
 - For the countries that don't have summer camps, how do they spend their summer holiday?
- What are some relaxation (or de-stressing) techniques?
 - Practice some of these with your club.
 - Host a de-stressing session at your school during lunch or after school.
- How do other countries view medicine?
 - Are their practices "modern medicine" or "traditional/natural medicine"?
 - What do you see as the benefits or set-backs of each?
- What do different nationalities study in school?
 - What are their "core subjects"?
 - Do they have electives?
 - How does that system work? (How many and how do they choose?)
 - When (what year in school) is each topic covered?
 - How does this compare to the US?

Other Movies to Watch and Discuss

Watch them as a club, or host a screening to watch them with the rest of your school (Before purchasing these films, check your library.)

- [Preschool in Three Cultures](#)
- [Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited](#)
 - view an excerpt from a scene at the Japanese preschool [here](#)

- [Girl Rising](#)
 - Organization's website: <https://girlrising.org>
- [Schooling the World: The White Man's Last Burden](#)
- [School of Babel \(La Cour de Babel\)](#)
- [He Named Me Malala](#)

Book Club

(Before purchasing individual copies, check your library or ask all participating members to chip in for a communal book to pass around each week (allowing each member to read a chapter then present to the rest of the group), if you are a university student, check online databases like jstor)

- [Preschool in Three Cultures](#)
- [The Smartest Kids in the World](#)

EVENT/ACTIVITY IDEAS

Pot Luck

- share your favorite foods from your host culture, and explore dishes from other cultures.

Exchange with your Host Community

(TIP: invite member of foreign language clubs to join in these activities)

- organize a language exchange with your host family/friends. Offer to help them with their conversational English practice if they will help you all with your language practice in their language
- write letters to your English class or do a video exchange to share your school and community life with them, and to allow them to share their school and community with your club

Multicultural/International Fair

- join with other clubs and groups from your school and community to present a fair at your school
- run the fair on a Saturday, over the course of a week or during lunch
- ask dance teams, choirs, and bands to perform material from other cultures
- share fun facts and games/activities
- invite food trucks to sell food at the fair (or ask if they'll donate!)

Talent Show

- run your own talent show or enter one that's already happening
- present a song, dance or story from your host country
- create a skit for club members to perform about your experience abroad
- give a short presentation on communicating with other cultures/in a foreign language

Volunteering or Service Project

- check out [AFS Project Change](#) for ideas of projects to implement in your community
- Did your *host* community have any initiatives/rules that aligned with these sustainability goals? How can you implement these in your home community?

- Does your *home* community have any initiatives/rules that align with these sustainability goals better than the practices of your host community? How can you share these ideas with your host community?

Tutoring

- tutor students learning English as a foreign language
- work with refugee students to help them with their school work and becoming acclimated to life in the States
- in addition to tutoring, work out an exchange so that for everything you teach, you are also learning about their home culture / language
- organize a language exchange with your host family/friends. Offer to help them with their conversational English practice if they will help you all with your language practice in their language.

Fundraising

- check out [AFS-USA's Fundraising Guide](#) and the [FAQ](#) page for ideas and tips on how to successfully fundraise to help one of your club members or community members go abroad or to donate to a scholarship

RECRUITMENT FLYER TEMPLATES

(scroll to the next page)

DISCOVER
a world
BEYOND



JOIN THE AFS CLUB

**intercultural, international, fun,
exchange, discuss, learn,
knowledge, surprise, friendship**

COME TO OUR FIRST MEETING...

DATE _____

TIME _____ LOCATION _____

INTERCULTURAL

FUN

DISCUSS

KNOWLEDGE

EXCHANGE

JOIN THE AFS CLUB AND



EXPLORE THE WORLD

Meetings: every _____
at _____
in _____

FRIENDSHIP

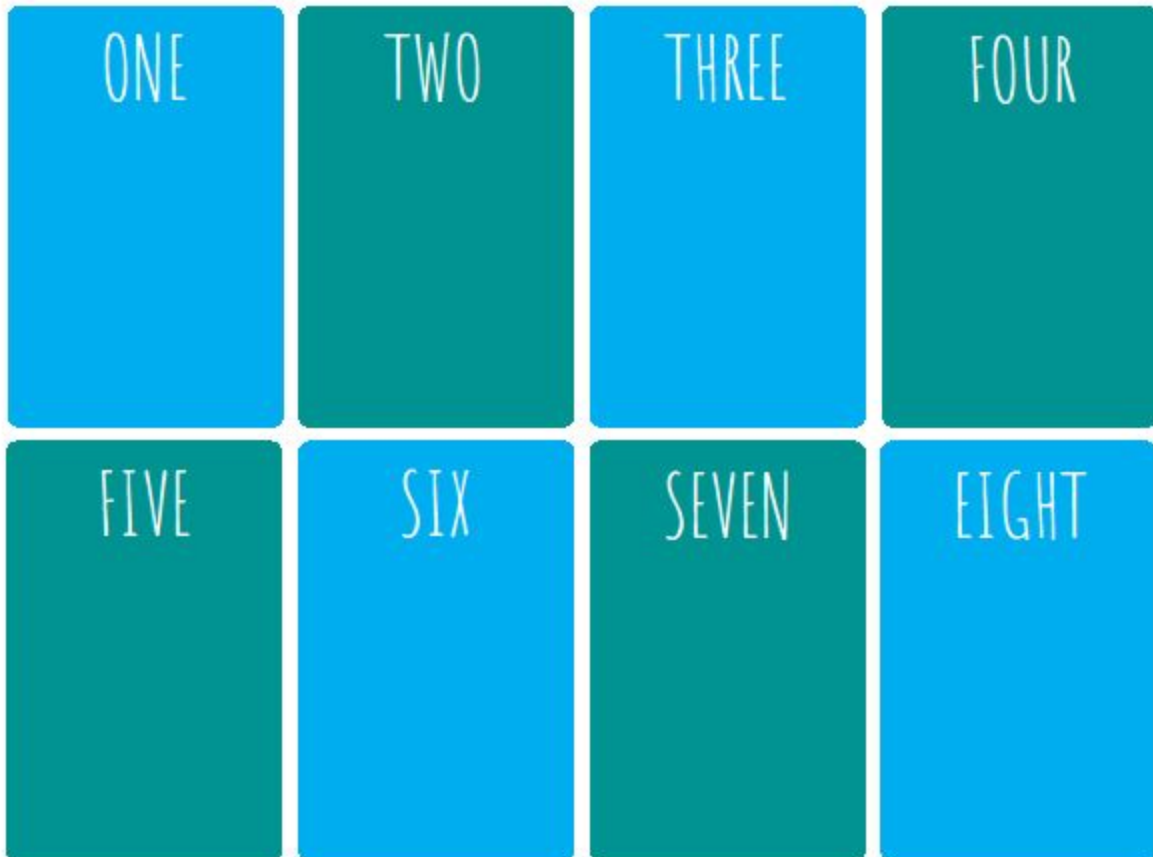
SUSTAINABLE

LEARN

SURPRISE

INTERNATIONAL

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE AFS CLUB?



COME TO OUR MEETING!

Date

Time

Place

Explore the world with the AFS Club.

Join us at our next meeting:
Date, Time, Place

INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE!

Get a taste for study abroad every week!

We'll talk to experts, watch videos, try new foods, discuss international affairs and learn what it's like to be a high school student in another country.