

# PROGRAM APPLICATION BOOKLET

## Travel & Family-Stay Program to France Mounds Park Academy - France 2008



### **PROPOSED ITINERARY:**

*(dates subject to change pending confirmation)*

13-Jun	Fri	Depart MSP
14-Jun	Sat	Arrive Paris; transfer to hotel; Bâteaux Mouches; <u>dinner</u>
15-Jun	Sun	Paris: visit Louvre; bus tour; <u>dinner</u>
16-Jun	Mon	Paris: visit Ste Chapelle; <u>dinner</u>
17-Jun	Tue	Paris: guided visit of Versailles; <u>dinner</u> near Eiffel Tower
18-Jun	Wed	TGV to Strasbourg: visit cathedral & parliament; <u>dinner</u>
19-Jun	Thu	Strasbourg: local visits (concentration camp; Haut-Koenigsbourg); <u>dinner</u>
20-Jun	Fri	Bus to Geneva: visit Colmar en route; begin family stay
21-Jun	Sat	Family Stay
22-Jun	Sun	Family Stay
23-Jun	Mon	Family Stay
24-Jun	Tue	Family Stay
25-Jun	Wed	Family Stay
26-Jun	Thu	Depart family stay; visit Evian, Lausanne; <u>dinner</u> ; back to Geneva
27-Jun	Fri	Geneva: visit UN & Red Cross; <u>dinner</u>
28-Jun	Sat	Transfer to airport; return to U.S.

**ESTIMATED PRICE:** \$3295-3395 based on a minimum of 30 students

- **Save \$100!** Send completed application and \$300 deposit by June 1 to receive our early-bird discount.
- **Save another \$100!** Host an L&F foreign student (3-4 weeks in summer).

### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip airfare MSP-Paris, Geneva-MSP including all taxes and fees
- 8 nights hotel accommodations (European tourist-type with students 3-4 to a room) and continental breakfast
- Family-stay arrangements
- Train, motor coach and transfers as indicated
- 8 pre-arranged dinners
- Most entrance fees
- Medical/accident insurance; limited cancellation protection
- Leaders on a 1 per 10 basis
- Extensive student and leader preparatory materials

**IMPORTANT!** *Final program price will be determined by number of participants and inclusions requested by group. Prices are based on conditions, projected airfares and exchange rates as of spring 2007, and are subject to change due to circumstances beyond the control of Language & Friendship, Inc.*

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students must have completed, or almost completed, 2 or more years of French study; must maintain good academic standing; and must be in excellent health. Teacher/leaders may have additional requirements.



**PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- Passport costs
- Lunches during travel portion
- Public transportation
- Spending money (about \$30/day; less during family stay)
- Any items not listed as included

**PAYMENTS:**

- Make checks payable to Language & Friendship, Inc. (To keep costs reasonable, we do not take credit cards.)
- Payments are collected by the organizing teacher and sent to Language & Friendship together as a group.
- Please mark your calendar with the dates below. Invoices are sent only for the balance due.
- Late payments and materials are subject to a \$25 fee and may jeopardize a student’s participation.
- Add \$50 for spring program applications received after Nov. 15 or summer applications received after Feb. 1.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE\***

<i>After these dates, add \$25 late fee</i>	<b>Winter Programs (January/February)</b>	<b>Spring Programs (March/April)</b>	<b>Summer Programs (May/June)</b>
June 1 Early Bird sign-up	\$300	\$300	\$300
September 30	\$1000 (\$1300 new applicants)	\$500 (\$800 new applicants)	
October 15			\$300 (\$600 new applicants)
November 15	Balance due	\$800	
December 15			\$800
January 15		Balance due	
February 1			\$800
March 15			Balance due

**CANCELLATION FEES\***

*Written notice to Language & Friendship by participant or parent is required.*

<i>Letter (postmarked), fax or e-mail required.</i>	<b>Winter Programs (January/February)</b>	<b>Spring Programs (March/April)</b>	<b>Summer Programs (May/June)</b>	
Before Sept 30	\$200	\$100	\$100	
Sept 30 - Oct 14	\$300	\$200	\$100	
Oct 15 - Nov 14	To be determined	\$200	\$100	
Nov 15 - Dec 14		\$300	\$200	
Dec 15 - Jan 14		To be determined		\$300
Jan 15 - Feb 14				\$400
After Feb 15				To be determined

\*Groups of less than 10 may require instant airline ticket purchase resulting in a modified payment and cancellation schedule.

Note: Language and Friendship reserves the right to cancel a student’s participation should there be unresolved academic, behavioral or medical issues. Cancellation fees apply.

# Why Travel Abroad?

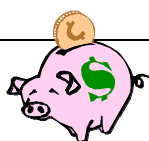


*Get to know a language, you'll get to know the people.  
Get to know the people, you'll make a friend.*

This is no ordinary trip! Read on to understand the significance of a **language-focused travel** and **family-stay** program:

- ✓ improves understanding of other cultures and points of view
- ✓ encourages us to see value in differences as well as in similarities
- ✓ creates a real-life opportunity to communicate in the language being studied
- ✓ proves that other languages are indeed used in the “real world”
- ✓ increases knowledge of current events
- ✓ increases appreciation for history, the arts, music and literature
- ✓ creates international friendships
- ✓ cultivates the ability to deal with others in a positive and effective manner
- ✓ encourages self-reliance
- ✓ provides an opportunity to budget money for a worthy goal
- ✓ promotes personal responsibility
- ✓ develops skills to deal with challenges you will experience in daily life
- ✓ contributes to the development of a positive self-concept, greater self-confidence and a sense of independence
- ✓ enhances college applications in today’s competitive environment
- ✓ expands career opportunities in a global economy

Additionally, traveling with a school group allows students to benefit from teacher experience during pre-program preparation as well as during actual travel time.



## SAVINGS CHART

Save	\$1995	\$2195	\$2395	\$2595	\$2795	\$2995	\$3195
<b>52 weeks</b>							
\$ per week	38	42	46	50	53	58	61
\$ per day	5	6	7	7	8	8	9
<b>40 weeks</b>							
\$ per week	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
\$ per day	7	8	9	9	10	11	11
<b>32 weeks</b>							
\$ per week	62	69	75	81	87	94	100
\$ per day	9	10	11	12	12	13	14

This idea is from Shorty Engel, Tracy, MN who has taken his students abroad every year for more than 25 years. Beginning a year before they travel, each night his students put all of the change from their pockets into a piggybank. (Hint: Ask your family members to contribute their loose change, too!)

# Instructions for Completing Your Application

## 1. Fill out the Student Application.

- use black ink; write neatly and legibly  
*pencil and other ink colors do not copy well please don't cross things out if you make a mistake, please use white-out or ask your teacher for a new form*
- indicate your legal first and last names (as on your passport)
- make sure both you and your parents read and sign agreement

## 2. Add 3 pictures of yourself.

- use recent school pictures
- if you have no school picture, be sure to use photos of YOU

*please, no pictures with friends  
no long distance shots*

- write your name on the back of each picture



## 3. Write your letter to your host family.

- use 8 1/2" x 11" white paper  
*please, no holes or spiral edges!*
- leave a margin on all sides
- use black ink, not pencil  
(so your letter can be photocopied)
- print your name, address & e-mail at the top of the page;  
*e-mail addresses should be current no inappropriate wording*
- write as neatly as possible
- be sure to sign your letter  
*if you use a computer, sign your name in ink after printing it*



Elien Hystead  
2241 KYLE AVE N  
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55424  
USA

Chère famille -

Je m'appelle Elien Hystead, et je suis très anxieuse de visiter la France! J'habite à Golden Valley dans le Minnesota- c'est une ville près de Minneapolis. J'ai 14 ans, et j'ai un frère qui s'appelle Adam, et il a 13 ans. J'ai aussi une chatte. Ma mère s'appelle Katherine, et elle travaille avec le marketing et la communication. Elle a 50 ans. Mon père s'appelle Doug, et il travaille comme un conseil d'ordinateur pour IBM. Il a 51 ans.

Quand je suis seule, j'aime écouter de la musique. J'aime toutes sortes de musique, mais j'aime beaucoup beaucoup d'artistes comme John Mayer! Aussi, j'aime courir-je suis dans l'équipe de courir à l'école. J'aime chanter aussi, et je chante dans le chœur à l'école. J'aime faire la cuisine, particulièrement la cuisine française! Avec mes amis, nous aimons aussi faire des choses amusant comme jouer au football américain ou jouer au frisbee. Nous aimons regarder des films, et de temps en temps nous allons au ciné. Dans ma famille, nous faisons de la cuisine, ou du shopping. Aussi, nous jouons au softball, et au basketball.

Merci beaucoup de m'inviter chez vous! J'ai hâte de vous connaître! Ecrivez-moi si vous plaît! Et

Amicalement,  
Elien Hystead

## 4. Paper clip the above items with your check (in order: check, application, pictures, letter).

**Make a good impression!**

# Letter-writing Guidelines

*This is vocabulary intended to be helpful, not to create a form letter.  
Be creative! Have your letter make a statement about who you are.*

- write neatly, in black ink,
- use one side of an 8-1/2 x 11” white unlined, unpunched (no holes) piece of paper
- please use white-out to cover mistakes

## 1. Return Address

Put your **name and address** (including e-mail) in the upper right-hand corner. Do not indicate a date.

## 2. Starting your letter

Dear family or host family                      Chère famille *or* Chère famille d'accueil

## 3. Basic Information

Your name	Je m'appelle...
Where you live & information about your city	J'habite à Burnsville dans le Minnesota. C'est une banlieue de Minneapolis de... habitants.
Your age	J'ai...ans.
Your family	J'ai (1,2,3,) frère(s) et (1,2,3) soeur (s) J'ai un chat/une chatte/un chien/une chienne.
Their names and ages	Mon frère/ma soeur s'appelle... et il/elle a ...ans.
Parents and their professions	Mon père/ma mère s'appelle ... et il/elle est...

## 4. What you like to do

Be as precise and detailed as you can be. List what you actually do/play and games you like to just watch; what you enjoy doing alone (quand je suis seul(e) or with friends (avec mes amis, nous aimons...)). How do you spend your free time, your weekends?

Sports (I like to play/I play)	J'aime jouer / je joue au football américain, au baseball, etc... J'aime faire / je fais de la gymnastique, de l'équitation, etc...
Sports you like to watch	J'aime regarder les matchs de baseball, les compétitions de ski etc...
Instruments	Je joue de la clarinette, du saxophone, du piano, etc...
Other activities	J'aime lire (read), J'aime faire la cuisine (cook), j'aime faire du camping, j'aime faire de la marche (hiking)...
Your favorite subjects	A l'école, j'aime le français, les maths, l'anglais, l'histoire, etc...
What you would like to become	Plus tard (later), je voudrais être pilote, docteur, professeur, etc...

## 5. What your family does together

With your family	Avec ma famille, nous... <i>or</i> Dans ma famille, nous...
Your vacation	Pendant les vacances de Noël / les vacances d'été, nous...

## 6. Thanking your host family in advance

Thank you for inviting me...	Merci beaucoup de m'inviter chez vous. <i>or</i> C'est gentil à vous de m'inviter.
Thank you for your hospitality	Je vous remercie d'avance de votre hospitalité.
Thank you for letting me be a part of your family	Merci beaucoup de m'accueillir comme membre de votre famille pendant quelques jours.

## 7. How to end your letter

I'm looking forward to meeting you	J'ai hâte de vous connaître.
Please write back	Ecrivez-moi, s'il vous plaît. <i>or</i> Répondez-moi, s'il vous plaît.
Closing	A bientôt (see you soon) <i>or</i> Amicalement <i>or</i> Amitiés (sincerely, your friend); <i>or</i> Je vous embrasse (Love)—pick one!

## 8. Sign your letter with a pen, not pencil

## Travel Safety

Language & Friendship is committed to providing a safe, educational experience for each participant. We believe that creating international friendships and increasing our understanding of other cultures is an invaluable contribution to world peace.

Sharing the belief that it is essential to proceed thoughtfully as we organize our programs, we regularly monitor the website of the U.S. Department of State, which issues information regarding travel abroad. We are in frequent communication with our extensive network of teachers overseas who inform us of each region's political climate firsthand. We think it is helpful to explain the types of notices issued by the U.S. Department of State:

The highest alert from the U.S. Department of State is a Travel Warning issued to recommend avoiding travel to a certain country. This was not issued for any of our destination countries during past years. However, our Trip Cancellation coverage provides protection for this issuance.

The U.S. Department of State issues Public Announcements to disseminate information about perceived threats and shorter-term notice of possible unrest. An example of this is a Worldwide Caution, a general issuance which advises travelers to exercise caution. Our programs continue to operate successfully in these circumstances. Cancellations in this case follow our regular cancellation policy.

In the year of the first Gulf War, the year following 9/11, and during the war with Iraq, our participants traveled safely and were warmly welcomed abroad.

## Trip Cancellation Protection

*Language & Friendship provides the following protection for all L&F travelers:*

### **In Case of Unforeseen World Events**

Upon written request, L&F participants receive a full refund less \$400 to cover deposits and administrative costs if **both** of the following occur:

- The U.S. Department of State declares an Act of Terrorism against U.S. interests in: the U.S; international airspace; or the destination country and

- A U.S. Department of State official Travel Warning to the destination country is issued or in effect within 90 days of departure.

### **In Case of Medical Emergencies**

L&F makes every effort to recover as much of your money as possible. In addition to recoverable costs, L&F will refund up to \$750 of costs we are unable to recover.

A claim may be made in the case of a medical emergency which precludes a fully-paid participant from traveling; i.e. a serious illness (not including pre-existing conditions) or death of the participant or an immediate family member (parent, sibling, or grandparent). A physician's statement and signature is required.

*Participants may independently purchase additional travel insurance. For more information go to [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)*

## Accident & Health Insurance

All program participants are covered under an accident and health insurance policy for the duration of the program through Markel Insurance Company.

**Medical Expense Benefit up to \$2,500:** Markel pays expenses for reasonable and customary treatment for accidents or sickness that require medical treatment by a physician and/or hospital services.

**Emergency Evacuation Benefit up to \$10,000:** After treatment at a local hospital for 5 days or more, Markel pays for emergency evacuation to the home country if medical condition warrants further treatment.

This description of benefits is an abbreviated summary only and not an insurance contract. (The policy also includes benefits for Repatriation of Remains and Accidental Death.) In the event of a claim, the provisions, limitations and exclusions in the original policy, on file with Language & Friendship, Inc., will apply.

### **Helpful Websites**

U.S. Passports: [www.travel.state.gov/passport/index.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/index.html)

Non-Citizens: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

French Consulate: [www.info-france-usa.org](http://www.info-france-usa.org)

## Program Expectations

**Participation in this program is a privilege. Participants will be expected to conduct themselves in a mature, considerate manner, reflecting highly on themselves, their community, their country. Success of the program requires that each person abide by a set of common behavior expectations for the benefit and safety of all participants.**

1. I agree to abide by my leader's rules – **all of them.**
2. I will not use tobacco or alcohol or any other controlled substances.
3. I will treat people I meet with respect and discretion as I am a guest in their country.
4. I will make my best effort to speak their language.
5. I will never venture out alone.
6. I will keep my passport and money safe.
7. I will not have my body pierced or tattooed while abroad.
8. I will abide by the curfews set by my teacher.
9. I agree to be on time and will participate in all planned activities, including all pre-trip preparation meetings.
10. I will drive no motorized vehicle nor will I be a passenger on a two-wheeled motorized vehicle.
11. I agree to be flexible about with whom I share a room.
12. I agree to keep hotel room doors open if any other students stop by my room.
13. I agree to be respectful and courteous of other hotel guests and other passengers on planes/trains/buses: keeping noise to a minimum, keeping my hotel room and my area on the bus clean and keeping my feet off seats.
14. I will be responsible for any loss or damage to any personal or public property, and pay damages, if applicable.
15. I will respect the wishes of my host family and do my best to be helpful and cooperative. I will contact my leaders if I have any questions or difficulty.
16. I agree to not bring my cell phone so I can focus on the program, the country, and the people I am visiting.

*It is understood that failure to abide by the Program Expectations will result in a return home at parent cost.*



## Quotes from Students

This experience has given me a new outlook on life, a better understanding of other cultures, new friends and greater confidence in myself. I will always be grateful for this opportunity.

*Kevin Crow, Doherty High School, CO*



Make the most of everything and keep in mind how lucky you are to be there in the first place. I enjoyed just some everyday activities. Errands like shopping for groceries take on a whole new spin when you're in a foreign country.

*Veronica Martin, Trenton High School, MI*

It doesn't matter what may be going on in the world; people want to believe the best about you. Being able to become friends and share good times without really knowing each other's language perfectly – it was the smiles that said it all.

*Julie Arnold, Iowa City, IA*

I loved this experience – it was truly the best time of my life. It opened my world! There are people all over the world with different cultures and languages. I want to learn more about them. I want to study abroad in college and now I will take more French in college. I take it much more seriously now!

*Mary Thibault, Willmar, MN*

## Quotes from Teachers

Excellent. By far the best of all organizations we have worked with in the past!

*Todd Chowan, Normandale French Immersion School, MN*

I am so glad you could make this exchange happen. What a combination of language and friendship!

*Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Richfield High School, MN*

I was delighted by the entire experience for my students and most especially by the information, support and assistance that the Language & Friendship team provided.

*Paul-Léon Tuzenu, Harpeth Hall School, Nashville, TN*

## Language & Friendship's Mission Statement

The mission of Language & Friendship is to provide meaningful intercultural opportunities through short-term travel and family-stay programs abroad as well as through hosting opportunities in the U.S.

Emphasis is on the creation of quality, reasonably priced programs and a strong commitment to intercultural and language-oriented education.

By encouraging growth and curiosity through hosting and travel, we are developing an awareness of our role as world citizens and are moving in the direction of a more peaceful world. Experiencing the life of its people is the best way to become acquainted with another country, its heritage and its values.

L&F reinforces communication as a key to understanding other cultures. Knowledge of other languages, an eagerness to improve communication skills, and a curiosity for learning permit greater understanding.

## Special Program Features

- L&F works closely with teachers to create programs designed as a learning experience rather than a simple tour.
- L&F believes that good preparation is crucial to the success of all its programs; therefore, educational preparatory materials are provided for both students and leaders.
- L&F's affiliation with other travel professionals and its strong network of teachers abroad results in maximum service and affordable prices.

## Selection of Host Families

Carefully selected local coordinators, who are friends or teachers through personal connections, promote hosting in their communities. They locate and screen families from their schools and communities and match them with the students who will be their guests. The families volunteer to receive a student into their homes, welcoming them as another family member in recognition of the educational benefit that hosting affords the whole family.

## Experienced Staff

Language & Friendship, Inc. has a staff with more than 100 years of combined experience in intercultural and educational programs. The benefits of this expertise are reflected in the high-quality service provided. Language & Friendship was created in 1988 to offer maximum personalized service and custom-designed programs.

Staff experiences include: advanced degrees in foreign languages; personal family-stay experiences; living in Europe; teaching experiences; leading students abroad; working at such places as the Concordia Language Villages and other student travel programs.

Language & Friendship – our name says it all. At L&F we do what we do out of our love of languages, cultures and a passion for travel. Our lives have been enriched by friendships formed through travel and living abroad, as well as by foreign students we have hosted.

L&F is very proud of its **Pro Lingua Award** granted by the Minnesota Language Teachers' Association. The award recognizes outstanding service to and support of linguistic and cultural education by a person or organization from outside the language teaching profession in Minnesota.

Naomi Thomsen, the founder of Language & Friendship, Inc., was presented in 2004 with the **Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes Académiques**, the French government's highest honor to those who have advanced the cause of French culture and language.



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