



Boulder Council for International Visitors

Boulder Council for International Visitors (BCIV) has been hosting international visitors in Boulder since 1962 and is the official host for international visitors for the City of Boulder.

BCIV is an entirely volunteer organization. The members are part of a nationwide network engaged in the important work of promoting mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and those of other countries. BCIV members have been described as "citizen diplomats."

BCIV is a member of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) headquartered in Washington, D.C. In addition to BCIV, more than 100 local Councils for International Visitors around the U.S. are engaged in hosting international visitors. NCIV helps these members of the network carry out their local work. It also works closely with the State Department's United States Information Agency (USIA) which administers The International Visitor Program.

The International Visitor Program (Short Term Visitor Program)

The International Visitors Program has been in existence for more than 40 years. Short term international visitors are selected by American embassies and consulates overseas and other senior government officials for USIA's International Visitor Program. Those selected are current and emerging leaders from around the world. Every year about 5,000 international visitors are invited for a planned tour of the United States. These visitors are from as many as 150 different countries. More than 100 alumni of the program have gone on to become heads of state, including F.W. de Klerk of South Africa, Indira Ghandi of India, and Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain.

Each year BCIV hosts many of these short term visitors. Some come alone, but most visit in groups of three to six or more. If they do not speak English, an official interpreter travels with them. Our member volunteers make hotel reservations for the visitors, set up requested professional appointments, and provide local transportation around the city when necessary. We also try to arrange a potluck supper at a member's home for the visitor(s). This "home hospitality" is often the highlight of the visitor's stay in Boulder, and many volunteers also say that it is their favorite part of BCIV's work because they get to know such interesting people.

The Long Term Visitor Program

Many long term international visitors are posted to governmental agencies in Boulder; others are on temporary assignment with local businesses; still others are international students who are working for advanced degrees. Many bring their families because their assignment can last up to a year or more.

BCIV has developed a program to involve these long term visitors in our organization and community. Each month (except July and August) BCIV volunteers and interested community members organize a potluck supper and program for international visitors. These informal programs are designed to be entertaining and informative. Some examples of recent program are: jazz musicians, square dancing, Native American customs, presentations by local government officials, talks by forest rangers, Ukrainian egg dying, Scandinavian dancers, and the art of brass rubbing. The November potluck supper is a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner; and in December, BCIV volunteers host a holiday party potluck.

These monthly events provide international visitors an opportunity to get to know our BCIV members and vice versa. As a result, members sometimes choose to invite visitors to their homes or plan special outings with them. Such cross cultural contact is the heart and soul of the International Visitors Program.



Be a Citizen Diplomat. Join BCIV!

BCIV is an all volunteer organization and always welcomes new members! If you are interested, please see the membership information below.

As a member, you will be able to meet interesting international visitors as well as people in the community who share your interest in getting to know people from all over the world. You will also join the thousands of volunteers all over the country who want to do what they can to build mutual understanding in the world, person by person.

Membership Information:

Boulder Council for International Visitors
www.bciv.org
email: programs@bciv.org
mail: PO Box 1285, Boulder, CO 80306

Membership Dues: Individual \$15; Family \$20; Corporate \$50.

Dues cover the period of September to September of each year.

Additional donations are tax deductible.

Boulder Council for International Visitors



Building Internal Bridges
Since 1962

*"If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers,
it shows he is a citizen of the world,
and that his heart is no island
cut off from other lands,
but a continent that joins to them."*

Francis Bacon, 1561-1626