



INTERCHANGE LISBON, PORTUGAL

SUMMER 2020



What is Interchange?

It is a family-centered program that encourages a deeper encounter between two cultures by placing young people within families. Delegates are matched with a partner of the same gender from another country and they take turns living together with each other's families. In addition to family activities, all of the youth delegates from both countries get together for group activities every few days that include CISV peace education curriculum.

Is the Interchange different from other programs in CISV?

Yes! Interchange is the only program that allows the entire family to participate in the experience. This means that as a parent you also get to know the culture of the child that is visiting you. You have the opportunity to form a friendship not only with the family of the visiting country but also with the local families. The Interchange is the only program where the families take the lead in planning and coordinating the calendar of activities from beginning to end (with guidance from your LIC*).

What are some of the benefits of Interchange?

- Increase awareness of different cultures
- Develop self-reliance while living with someone from another culture
- Learn how to work cooperatively and have a positive attitude towards others
- Act as a responsible active global citizen

When will the delegates be traveling abroad and when will be hosting?

The Miami Chapter will be hosting first. This means that the Portugal delegation will arrive to Miami first for two weeks. After the two weeks, the Portugal delegation will go back to their homes, and the Miami delegation will travel a day later to reunite with them in their country for the two week experience abroad. It is important to note that delegations needs to travel together at all times to and from the country they are visiting.

*Local Interchange Coordinator

Dates:

7/3/20- 7/17/20: Portugal visits Miami

7/19/20- 8/2/20: Miami visits Portugal

How many kids will take part in the Interchange?

We have openings for 3 girls and 3 boys between ages of 12/13**. The delegation is led by a leader who is 21 years or older.

**All youth applying for Interchange need to turn 12 or 13 years old by December 2020.

Who will I be hosting?

You will be hosting the child that your daughter/ son is paired with. This child will be with you for the two weeks in Miami, and then your daughter/ son will go to their home when they visit Portugal.

How do I know who will be paired with my child?

During the application process, you will need to fill out the Interchange Application Form. This form asks many specific questions about your family, your home and your child's temperament, personality, likes and dislikes. Your child will also have an opportunity to fill out a section on their own.

All this important information, plus input from the leaders, LIC and the Chapters will be used to pair each child with the delegate that matches the most with their personality and their home life. The matching will be done in advance to give enough time for the families to get to know one another before the Interchange starts!

What does hosting entail?

Hosting entails taking care of the child that is visiting you and showing them what your life, culture and city is all about.

As with all CISV programs, the Interchange also follows a calendar of activities that take place in order to ensure that the experience incorporates the CISV values and mission, which is to "educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world".

I see that the two weeks in Miami include weekdays and I am a working parent, do you think I can still participate?

Yes, absolutely! There is a calendar of events that takes place during the hosting phase and these include activities where the parents do not participate:

- Mini-camp: a three day, two night camp during the week that is led by the leaders of the two countries with the delegations only. Parents do not participate in this camp; however,

parents are responsible for finding the location, putting it together (food, logistics, etc) and picking up/ dropping off the kids.

- Two group day excursions that take place during the week. These excursions are meant to bring the delegations closer while getting to know the city and its surroundings (leaders will take care of the kids, parents do not need to attend, only drop off/ pick up). It can be a day in the beach, visiting a museum, bayside, etc. We will provide suggestions from previous years; but new ideas are always welcome and encouraged, as long as they are first approved by our Risk Management Department.
- Social Activity: This activity also takes place during the week and it is meant for the kids to do something to give back to the community. Again, leaders are in charge of kids during these outings.

There are also other planned activities, such as a 1) Welcome party, 2) National Night and 3) Farewell Party. These include all families and can take place in each other's homes, party rooms, parks, etc.

You will also have alone time with your delegate during family weekend and other dates that are left free for activities of your choice.

Carpooling has been used often in the past to help one another. Sleep overs are also an option and the delegations love this!

It is important to note that yes, even if you do work, that maybe taking a day or two off of work to enjoy this time may be a good idea. But it should not stop you from pursuing a life changing experience for your child and your entire family.

Is there a commitment prior to the Interchange starting because I am worried my child will not know the other kids?

No worries! Once the delegation is formally announced in March, the entire delegation along with their leader will need to meet a minimum of 4 times. During this meetings, the delegation will get to know one another and their leader well. They will also use this meetings to plan their National Night and also discuss what excursions and social activity they would like to do/ take part in during Portugal's visit to Miami.

This is one of the great things about Interchange that you make good friends both locally and internationally!

What is National Night and why is it so important?

It is a time when the delegations get to showcase their country to the visiting countries family and friends. Here they have the opportunity to work together to come up with a themed dance that is popular in their country, along with choosing the costume or outfits they will wear while doing so. They also have the opportunity to prepare a food that portrays their culture, plus they get to bring decorations from their country.

You said that parents take the lead with the planning of the calendar, how is this so?

Yes, the parents will also need to get together to plan the calendar within the guidelines provided by your LIC. This is a great time to connect, exchange contact info, delegate different responsibilities and voice concerns about driving, distances and so on, so that everyone can have the best experience possible!

I am super interested in my daughter/ son participating, what do I need to do?

Congratulations! Interchange is such a deep, amazing experience of growth and connection that will be with your child and your family forever:

- Go to <https://miamifl.cisvusa.org/program/interchange-2/>
- Fill out online application
- Download the IC Interchange Form, fill out and send to: lic.cisv.miami@gmail.com
- Print the Family Reference form and the Youth Delegate Reference Form. Have the person filling it out send to your LIC directly via e-mail or by mail.
- Make the deposit payment of \$500
- Home Visit
- Background Check
- Driving Record Check

Are there any other requirements in order to participate?

- Become a CISV yearly member
- Volunteer within the Miami CISV Chapter. CISV is fully funded and run by volunteers.
- Have your child participate in the local CISV activities.
- MANDATORY: Your child will need to attend the local Miami mini-camp taking place in February.

When will I have confirmation that my daughter/ son will be participating?

The Miami Chapter Board will announce all the delegates that will be participating in the different programs during the March delegation announcement party.

It is important to note that prior to this, you can and will be in contact with your LIC to know how the application is progressing.

Interchange is the one program in CISV that has a bit more flexibility than all the others!

I want to speak with someone who has sent their children to Interchange to hear first-hand about their experience, is this possible?

Yes, we highly encourage this! We have plenty of families in CISV who have been part of Interchange. In the past 3 years we have done Interchanges with the following countries: **Austria, Faroe Islands, Italy and Sweden**. Just let us know and we will put you in contact with someone.

