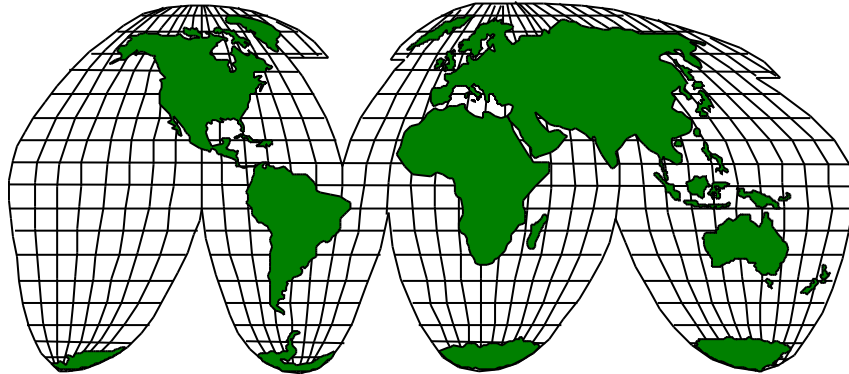




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**International Language & Culture Camp
Shenzhen, China
Summer: 2017**

**Orientation Handbook
Teacher Version**

July 06, 2017 – August 27, 2017
(Dates subject to final confirmation)

IPIE.US
International Partnerships in Education
296 Carmen Drive
Collegeville, PA USA
19426-2500

International Language & Culture Camp Shenzhen, China Summer: 2017

Program Structure:

The International Language & Culture Camp is facilitated through a cooperative effort between International Partnerships in Education (Collegeville, PA. USA) and Hanbridge Mandarin (Shenzhen, GD. China).

The summer camp program consists of a 15-day on-campus immersion experience where Chinese and American students will share equally in the camp experience. Each camp day will include foreign language instruction, educational cross-cultural lessons, and recreational activities designed to foster teamwork and trust. Students will live, learn, play, and participate in the cross-cultural activities together.

The Program:

The program offers US educators the unique opportunity to experience China as few foreigners have ever experienced. Educators will have the opportunity to teach their own Chinese students, meet local educators, and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

The program is structured as an international immersion summer learning camp. High school and university students from both China and the USA will attend the camp and participate equally in the experience.

Each teaching day will consist of six class periods, 45 minutes each, of instruction and activities. The three morning classes are designed to be instructional based while the three afternoon classes are designed to be cultural and recreational based. Please refer to the schedule for additional information.

Each teacher delegate will be responsible for six class periods per teaching day. Additionally, each teacher will participate in a minimum of three evening activities. Evening activities are casual. At the evening activities teachers will serve as judges for student competitions.

Upon completion of the teaching program teachers will embark on a private tour of Beijing. Tour sites include the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace and much more.

Program Objectives:

For a program to be considered successful in China it must benefit all of the individuals involved. The International Language and Culture Camp has been designed to benefit both the Chinese and American students and the participating educators.

Through this program the students are expected to have fun and make new friends while increasing their overall foreign language communication skills (beginner, intermediate, or advanced) both in understanding and expression, increase their comfort level in using the foreign language, and increase their overall knowledge of the respective foreign culture and customs.

The participating educators in this program are expected to experience the personal fulfillment of teaching in their own foreign classrooms, increase their understanding of the foreign educational system, and increase their overall knowledge of the respective foreign culture and customs.

Cross Cultural Expectations:

As a participant in this program you will be a bridge between the people of your country and people of China. Teaching is considered an honorable profession in China. Teachers have the respect of students, parents, and the community.

Expect to make many friends. The Chinese people are friendly and have a wonderful sense of humor. They have warm hearts and are tolerant of social mistakes by foreigners. They expect Americans to be naturally friendly and open.

The Successful Candidate:

The work is hard and the conditions are less than ideal. The successful candidate should have a rugged and adventurous spirit. They should appreciate cultural differences and similarities. They should be flexible and adaptable to change; there will be many unexpected changes throughout the program. Most of all, they should enjoy being a student as much as a teacher.

This is a stressful program for the educators. Teachers will arrive jet-lagged, class sizes may be large*, technology works sporadically, student levels vary widely, and classroom support is limited.

*2017 Language & Culture Camp teacher-student ratio expected 1:15 (1:20 maximum)

It is important to note that the climate in Guangdong is sub-tropical, hot and humid. The classrooms are air-conditioned but sometimes the equipment fails. There may be days when only a fan is available to cool the classroom.

It is expected that delegates will be psychological and physically fit to participate in the program. Delegates must be able to work under pressure, climb multiple flights of stairs, and walk several miles each day. Our program is not suited to everyone. We urge you to compare programs and speak with previous program delegates before making application. The work is hard, but the experience is equally rewarding. If you think you have what it takes to be a successful candidate, we'd love to hear from you.

The Campus:

The International Language and Culture Camp will be held in Shenzhen, China. Shenzhen is a modern city boasting rapid economic and high-tech development. Neighboring Hong Kong is a short distance away and is easily accessible by taxi, bus, or subway.

Classrooms are equipped with a teacher computer and a data projector. There may or may not be internet availability in the classroom. A private office/classroom area will be available for the delegation's use while on campus. Internet access will be available to delegates in this office/classroom.

Classrooms are air-conditioned, although sometimes the equipment fails. It should be noted that the campus toilets are Asian style.

The Students:

The students, both male and female, are from elementary through senior high grade 12. For the foreign language classes students will be grouped by ability. For the cultural, recreational, and entertainment activities students will participate together by class grade level.

The beginner level language students, because of their limited abilities, are expected to increase vocabulary by only a few words, phrases, or songs. More importantly the goal is to increase their interest in learning the foreign language while having fun and making new friends.

The intermediate level language students are expected to increase their conversational skills and their confidence in using the foreign language.

The advanced level language students are expected to increase their critical thinking and expression in the foreign language.

The Curriculum:

The goal is exposure to the foreign language and building student confidence in using the foreign language. Teachers will develop their own lesson plans. Wide latitude is extended in how teachers choose to develop and present their lesson plans. However, teachers are requested to avoid politically sensitive issues. A lesson plan overview must be submitted to IPIE.US for review and feedback 15 days prior to departure.

Curriculum Tips:

Educational technique in China is different than in the USA. Because of the extremely large class sizes Chinese students are rote learners and rarely participate in group activities. You may be asking them to learn in a way that they have never experienced before. The first few days your students will be shy and may resist your efforts. To be successful you will want to design lesson plans that immediately engage them in interaction and participation.

The Program Day:

Each teaching day consists of three 45-minute morning class periods and three 45-minute afternoon class periods. The lunch break is 2 ½ hours in length. This is a free time period. Lunch is provided at the campus canteen restaurant but you can go out for lunch (at your own expense), do some shopping, rest, or anything else during this time.

Each teacher will participate in a minimum of three rotating evening activities. Evening activities are casual. At the evening activities teachers will serve as judges for student competitions.

At conclusion of the daily teaching program and activities, your time belongs to you. You are not required to act as dorm monitors for the students. During your free time, you are encouraged to have fun and explore your new surroundings.

All schedules are subject to change.

What to Expect:

The first week of the program you will feel tired and disorientated. You will be jet-lagged, you'll be awake when your body thinks it should sleep, your students may be unresponsive, your meals will be different than what you're familiar eating, and your surroundings will be new. This first week you will rely heavily on your escorts.

The second week of the program you will be settled into your surroundings. Your internal body clock will be on China time, your students will have become more responsive, and you will feel comfortable enough to venture freely out on your own.

Summer Camp Flexibility:

The nature of the program is that of a summer camp. Schedules and activities change on a moment's notice. The greatest challenge for most of our delegates has been the on-the-fly flexibility and adaptation required.

Travel Procedures:

All delegates will depart the USA together and arrive in China together. Independent side-trips are not allowed during the program. Delegates may only extend their stay in China after the program ends (at their own risk and expense) upon signing a release waiver prior to departing the USA.

Air Transportation:

Airline transportation will be on major commercial international and domestic airlines. Upgrades may be available at additional expense. Domestic travel within China may be on the "Bullet" train.

Accommodations during Teaching Program:

Accommodations will be based on double occupancy in a 3-star or better hotel or apartment.

Accommodations in Beijing:

Accommodations will be based on double occupancy in a 3-star or better hotel.

Cultural Tours:

The cultural tour of Beijing will be full of many spectacular sights, sounds, tastes, and surprises. Naturally, tours to the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and Temple of Heaven are included!

The cultural tours are provided by a local travel agency at the direction of IPIE.US. Tours are scheduled and structured to provide a flavor for as many experiences as possible in a few short days. Some experiences you may wish lasted longer in duration and some you may wish were shorter. Something unexpected is always happens in China; relax and enjoy.

Additional Expenses:

Typically, a couple on-your-own days will be scheduled; you will be responsible for your own meals and activities.

The cultural tour in Beijing will be led by tour guides via a private bus. Tips are expected by the tour guides and bus drivers. A minimum one-time contribution of (US) \$10.00 for each tour guide and driver is requested. However, you may tip more as you see fitting.

Tips for hotel bell-boys are included in the program cost.

Passports and Visas:

If you have not done so, you should immediately apply for a passport. You can apply through your local Post Office or at an immigration office. It is a good idea to make photocopies of your passport (the page with your picture and passport number) and the visa page to carry in your luggage separate from your passport.

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

You will need to apply for a visa. You will be applying for a Visitor Visa.

Do not apply for your visa until instructed!

Health:

Bring an ample supply of any medications you are taking in their original containers. These items should be packed in your carry-on luggage. Although readily available, consider bringing over-the-counter items such as aspirin, anti-diarrhea medications, decongestants, antihistamines, vitamins and mosquito repellent.

Consult with your physician on any shots, vaccinations, or antibiotics (upper respiratory/intestinal infections) that they may recommend for you. No immunizations are required to enter China.

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationChina.aspx>

Consult with your major medical provider. Request a list of names and contact numbers for participating program hospitals in Shenzhen and Beijing, China.

Money:

The most convenient way to get cash is at a bank ATM. You may withdrawal the equivalent of (US) \$250 per day at most ATM's.

DO NOT bring Traveler's Checks.

Clothing/Packing:

The nature of the program is a summer camp. Therefore, dress in comfortable summer clothes. You will be on your feet most of the time, bring comfortable shoes. Your shoes will get wet; bring at least one extra pair.

Quickly passing rain showers do occur this time of year. Bring a portable umbrella to protect you from both the rain and the sun. Sunglasses and sunscreen lotion are recommended.

Although readily available, bring your own basic personal hygiene products. Hand sanitizer type products are recommended. Public bathrooms in China often lack toilet paper so it is a good idea to carry some packets of tissues.

Cameras and Video:

Cameras and video equipment should be packed with your carry-on luggage. You can freely take pictures throughout China, with a few exceptions. When in doubt, ask.

Luggage:

Your recommended luggage allowance, for this program, is one checked bag at 50-lbs. maximum, 1 carry-on bag at 10-lbs. maximum, and one carry-on personal item. Check with your domestic and international carriers prior to arriving in the airport.

Gifts/Prizes:

Exchanging gifts is part of the Chinese culture. Although your experience will be informal, you may want to bring some small gifts for your classroom aides and/or classroom activity/game prizes.

Internet:

You will have some limited internet access on-campus during the teaching part of the program for emailing home. Most of the hotels we book have internet access in the room. Expect slow access and page loads.

Google (Gmail), CNN, BBC and other sites are blocked in China. You will want to make sure that you have an accessible email account before departure.

Shopping:

Shopping in China is a fun adventure! Beware though, fake counterfeit items are abundant. For high value purchases (jewelry, jade, pearls) please consult your escorts.

Food:

Most of your meals will be Chinese. Feel comfortable trying all of it. Should you find yourself home-sick for American fast food, MacDonald's, KFC, and Pizza Hut all have a visible presence throughout China.

Diary:

By the end of your trip everything will be a blur. It is recommended that you write in your diary daily. This will ensure you a lifetime of memories that might otherwise be forgotten.

Helpful Websites:

US American Embassy in Beijing
<http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

US Consulate Office–Guangzhou
<http://guangzhou.usconsulate.gov/>

Group Dynamics:

Each participant brings their own experience and expertise to the group. It is the group energy and enthusiasm that will ignite the minds, imaginations, and hearts of the people you meet.

Teamwork is part of the Chinese value system. When you leave China, how you functioned as a group will be an impression that you will leave behind.

Conclusion:

Our program's success depends upon your success. We will be available to support your efforts every step of the way. Hopefully, this handbook has provided an insight into what you can anticipate throughout your participation in the program. What this handbook can't do is to prepare you for the unexpected. China is not the USA and your flexibility will dictate your experience. We appreciate your energy and enthusiasm. We count on your feedback to make continued improvements in the program.

We are confident that your participation in the "Summer Teaching Program in China" project will be a memorable experience. We are convinced that the people of both our great nations will benefit through this exchange. We are certain that the friendships made this summer will last a lifetime.

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Email: info@ipie.us

Website: <http://ipie.us>