



# AFS-USA Domestic Exchange Programs

## New Perspectives. No Passport Required.

AFS-USA's Innovation Team invites you to join us as we explore U.S.-based pilot programs that align with our mission and purpose, meet the challenges of a polarized country, and inspire us to create opportunities that connect individuals and communities across the U.S. Through curated, immersive, and theme-based activities – as well as experiences and hands-on workshops – participants will come together in dialogue and collaboration.

### Lewis and Clark: Then and Now *Pilot Program*

**July 12-19**

Program Target Age: **15-17**

Location: **Pacific Northwest**

Accommodations: **Homestay**

Program Cost: **\$2,000**



### About Lewis and Clark: Then and Now

Lewis and Clark: Then and Now is one-week domestic intercultural experience invites high school students to explore the historical and contemporary significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition while engaging deeply with the living cultures of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Grounded in the educational philosophy of AFS Intercultural Programs, the program combines homestays, guided exploration, dialogue, and reflective learning. Students will examine the legacy of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark across the region that includes the Columbia River Gorge, Portland, Vancouver, and Astoria.

Rather than viewing the expedition solely as a story of exploration, students will critically analyze multiple perspectives – including Indigenous communities, settlers, environmental stewards, and present-day residents – asking:

- Whose stories are told?
- How do historical narratives shape identity and power?
- How does the past influence present-day environmental, cultural, and social realities?

Students will live with carefully selected host families, fostering intercultural understanding through daily life experiences. Guided excursions and structured reflection sessions will support the development of global competence, empathy, and leadership skills.

### What's Included:

- Host family accommodations
- Meals
- Ground transportation (arrival/departure and program excursions)
- All program activities and related workshops
- Entrance fees for excursions and events

### Eligibility:

- Age range of 15-17 years old
- Demonstrate curiosity about the Lewis and Clark journey's role in shaping our country
- Desire to strengthen power skills, specifically civil discourse, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking
- Willing to provide post-program feedback

### Program Objectives

- Broaden awareness and perspective of our shared history
- Build power skills including critical thinking, inquiry skills, communication, and collaboration
- Promote civic engagement and collaborative problem-solving through discourse
- Gather feedback from participants for future program iterations



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### Sample Program Itinerary

(Schedule is illustrative and subject to change.)

#### Sunday, July 12

- Arrival at Portland International Airport (PDX)
- Welcome to Pacific Northwest: Orientation & Program Overview
- Introduction to Program Guides, Journaling & Reflection
- Host Family Meet & Greet Activity

#### Monday, July 13

- Historical Tour of Portland
- Fair Housing Council: Visit, Discussion, and Reflection
- Group Lunch & Guided Feedback Session
- Evening: Dinner with Host Families

#### Tuesday, July 14 - Friday, July 17

- Daily excursions to destinations in the Pacific Northwest in the environs of Portland, such as: Astoria and Fort Clatsop, She Who Watches Petroglyph site, Fort Vancouver, and Native American cultural history exploration
- Group lunch
- Guided reflection, learning, and feedback sessions
- Dinners with host families

#### Saturday, July 18

- Free day for local exploration with host families
- Farewell gathering
- Final Reflection & Learning Share

#### Sunday, July 19

- Host Family drop-off and departures at PDX



Questions?  
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