



# *Press Release*

## **About AFS Intercultural Programs**

AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

AFS began as ‘American Field Service’ in WWI & II when nearly 5,000 young men from all over the world volunteered as ambulance drivers. These young men who had seen the horrors of war pledged to promote peace and global understanding through intercultural exchanges. AFS has been doing intercultural programs since 1947.

The essence of any AFS program is ‘Stay and Study’ in a different cultural setting. Participants live with a host family experiencing home and family life that is in many ways different to their own culture and routine.

AFS believes that we must build bridges of understanding and mutual respect between countries and cultures around the world. We further believe that today’s youth – and tomorrow’s leaders – are among the best “bridge builders” between nations.

## **About AFS Intercultural Programs India**

In India, AFS was present in 1960s. However, due to political reasons, it ceased its operations. In 2005, AFS India restarted and registered itself under section 25 of Companies Act, 1956 and since then has been growing in terms of its visibility, its offerings, and diversity of programs across the country. With a pool of 800 plus volunteers, AFS has its foothold in 27 cities of India.

In its 11 years of existence, AFS India has hosted more than 900 students from Belgium, France, Japan, Norway, Austria etc. and sent around 1200 students on its programs to countries such as Italy, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, Spain, Malaysia, Switzerland etc. and has been able to build its association with 150 plus school pan India

## **Vision 2020 of AFS Intercultural Programs India**

To be the leading organization in intercultural education and experience that focuses on growing its programs for the underserved.

## **What we do**

- **Educate and activate global citizens:** AFS prepares and activates future leaders, global citizens and changemakers with essential 21st century intercultural skills to engage, lead and collaborate effectively in different cultural settings. Our international exchange, study abroad and volunteer programs are supported by research-based intercultural learning journeys facilitated by trained AFS volunteers and staff.



- **AFS Exchange and Study Abroad Programs:** From High School Study Abroad, Language Learning, Volunteer Abroad, Gap Year Opportunities, Adult Study Abroad, Internships Abroad, Teacher Exchanges and Summer/ Short-term Study Abroad we are a pioneer on Intercultural Education.
- **Host Family Programs:** Hosting an AFS student is a rewarding and meaningful intercultural learning adventure for the entire family—sharing cultures, traditions and gaining new perspectives.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** AFS local volunteers are the driving force of AFS programs and active at all levels—supporting students and families through their AFS intercultural journeys, serving on local AFS groups and boards, and leading social impact projects with local schools and communities.
- **Intercultural Learning and Global Citizenship Education:** We help people of all ages and backgrounds develop leadership, problem-solving, language and intercultural skills needed to succeed in a global economy and make a positive difference in the world.

## **AFS Values**

AFS enables people to act as responsible global citizens working for peace and understanding in a diverse world. It acknowledges that peace is a dynamic concept threatened by injustice, inequity, and intolerance.

AFS seeks to affirm faith in the dignity and worth of every human being and of all nations and cultures. It encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion or social status.

AFS activities are based on our core values of dignity, respect for differences, harmony, sensitivity and tolerance.

## **AFS and volunteerism**

Volunteers are the driving force behind the entire exchange program offered by AFS. Presently there are more than 40,000 active volunteers worldwide in various roles including board leadership, program operations, participant support, and marketing. AFS India is supported by 800 plus volunteers. The volunteer body is generally comprised of program alumni, and their families, former host families, and teachers. They are the backbone of the organisation. The dedication and support of these volunteers make it possible for AFS participants to embark on life-changing journeys of personal growth.



For more information regarding AFS Intercultural Programs India and its mission, please get in touch with:

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**For more information:**

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