



usa

building global friendship

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October, 28th, 2020

Dear Chapters and all members of CISV USA,

The CISV USA Board of Directors met last week and has unanimously voted to cancel the hosting of all international programmes for the 2021 June-August programme season. Additionally, the Board has also unanimously voted to cancel the sending of all delegations to programmes being hosted by other National Associations for the 2021 June-August programme season.

Please know that this decision was not taken lightly.

Nine months into the current global Coronavirus pandemic, we acknowledge that our lives here in the US and world conditions have drastically changed. We are all longing for some semblance of normalcy and connection and recognize that CISV typically provides that environment to many of us.

However, at this point in time, we do not feel that our chapters have the ability to adequately prepare to safely host and/or participate in traditional programmes within the constantly fluctuating pandemic. Furthermore, rapidly changing visa requirements and varied rules on quarantine periods leave global travel conditions less than feasible.

You may have heard that CISV international will be making a final decision on Summer programming by March 20th, 2021. However, we view this date as too late given the complex planning involved in hosting a programme. With the high probability of CISV USA being unable to participate in 2021 programmes, we are choosing to proactively respect and protect the commitment and time of our members and volunteers.

Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we believe CISV USA should concentrate our current efforts on Domestic programming. Accordingly, we will redirect our national resources this year to focus on creative new efforts and experiences which can feed and fulfill CISV's ongoing mission during this time of global upheaval. Some of these CISV-sponsored experiences include:

1. [Make 2020 Count](#). This is a great initiative encouraging everyone to make a difference. Shout out to Brandywine Valley for participating!
2. [AFS Intercultural Programs](#). This like-minded international youth exchange organization is offering virtual opportunities through 5-week online programs.

CISVers between the age of 14-17 are invited to apply for [Global You Adventurer](#) which covers complimentary educational goals and content which CISV and AFS share. The next program is November 3rd- December 1st. *More information can be found below.



Albeit amidst a global pandemic, we believe this is the perfect storm during which we can leverage our vast experience in international programming and adapt it to local environments. As we continue to grow as an organization together, we look forward to bringing new CISV experiences virtually into your home and to expanding them outside your front door and into your community as soon as it is safe for us all to do so.

Although we are physically aloof for now, the good news is that we CISVers are used to that! This doesn't mean we can't continue to connect, grow and make a difference together.

We truly look forward to seeing what amazing things CISVers will accomplish in 2021!

Christian Warner, Chair
On behalf of CISV USA's Board of Directors

* The 5-week AFS programme consists of: online modules with videos subtitled in English & Spanish: an online forum for connecting & reflecting with global peers; 4 live dialogue sessions run by qualified facilitators; fun interactive quizzes and assignments to reinforce learning; and 16 hours of global connections. The next programme runs 3 November–1 December. We are very interested in this opportunity of explorative potential for CISV. A reduced cost of USD285 will be made available to any CISVers who inform us, register, and are willing to provide feedback on the experience. If you wish to register, please email virtual-programmes@cisv.org. You will need a code in order to register at the special rate.

