

BONJOUR CHICAGO

FRANCE * Student Cultural Exchange Programs * SPAIN

PROPOSAL

Foster cultural exchange at your school with Bonjour Chicago



Bringing France and Spain to the Windy City

Host an exchange student from France or Spain, and give your students the opportunity to experience another culture.



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Proposal Summary

Bonjour Chicago is pleased to present your school with this proposal for our Cultural Exchange Program. We recognize the unique opportunity to help American high school students build relationships with their French and Spanish counterparts. This experience will serve students educationally and provide them opportunities to learn about other cultures while sharing their own. Bonjour Chicago's history shows that the friendships formed and nurtured in our program last into adult life and prepare students for professional success in our increasingly global economy.

Having examined the curriculum and academic goals of your school we are confident that our services will effectively help your students gain proficiency in a foreign language, the ability to interact comfortably in other cultures, and an understanding of diverse ways of life. These skills are paramount to academic and professional success in a global economy. Bonjour Chicago will achieve these goals in part, by affording your students the opportunity to host an exchange student in their home, and have that student attend classes with them for a two-week period during the designated timeframe. There is no cost to your school for this invaluable experience, and there are several key benefits for your students:

- Your students taking French or Spanish will have the opportunity to regularly converse one-on-one with a native speaker. Additionally, they may explore the option of visiting the country of the student they host. These processes are integral to learning a second language.
- Bonjour Chicago can give your students the competitive edge that travel, knowing another language and personal experience with other cultures provide. Such competencies are essential for successful participation in the business world. Other nations have long recognized this, and as economic boundaries blur, American educators have recognized it as well.
- Participation in an exchange program imparts general educational benefits that college admissions officers value and seek in their applicants. Taking part in our program shows a college admissions officer that the student possesses many attractive qualities: they are curious, responsible, and take the initiative to broaden their academic life.





Why Bonjour Chicago?

Bonjour Chicago is exceptional among exchange programs in how we pair students in mutually beneficial relationships. We achieve this by devoting much time and individual attention to knowing both our Chicago students and those abroad. Bonjour Chicago's Director, Julie Farias, personally presents the program at city and suburban schools and interviews each host candidate one-on-one. Over several weeks, we gather information about our students on both sides of the exchange through phone conversations, emails, photographs, and personal references. (Please see Appendix A for an example of some of the information we receive from our prospective exchange students.) We also periodically travel to France to work with our colleagues, as well as nurture our relationship with potential and past participants of the program.

Our successful track record establishing and maintaining these enduring friendships between families in Chicago and France makes us a trusted provider of cultural exchange. It is common for families who enroll one student in our program to do so again with younger siblings. More than 50% of students have been offered the opportunity to travel to France and visit their French student at the mere price of a plane ticket. We would like to bring this opportunity to your organization and look forward to forming a mutually rewarding partnership.

We also offer a scholarship program. For each student hosted at your school, Bonjour Chicago will give a one hundred dollar scholarship to be given at principal's discretion.



Company Background

Founded in 2009 by Julie Farias, Bonjour Chicago (www.bonjourchicago.org) started as a cultural exchange program between Chicago and France. Due to its success, we are now expanding to include exchanges with Spain. We locate and screen applicants in these locations so that they may attend a Chicago-area high school for two weeks. In return, Chicago host students have the opportunity to experience the culture of the student they are hosting. Bonjour Chicago is known for its commitment to personal attention to each student and devotion to experiential education—our methods give rise to meaningful cultural exchange by helping to develop genuine and lasting friendships between individuals, and even their families. Our success in this area has been noted by our participants again and again.

Bonjour Chicago partners with organizations in France drawing students from cities such as Paris, Lisieux, Neuilly, and various regions of Spain. We have successfully matched over one hundred and fifty students to date.

Mission Statement

Bonjour Chicago's mission is to foster cultural exchange and education by helping students in Chicago develop mutually beneficial relationships with students in France and Spain.

Services Provided

- 40-minute presentation at your organization by Director Julie Farias
- Interviews and screenings of interested students
- Interview and screenings of interested host families
- Matching of each host student with a French or Spanish student
- Guided educational tours and events for hosts with their student
- Procurement of room, board, and transportation for all exchange students
- Service Learning Projects
- Student Ambassador Programs



Project Scope

Bonjour Chicago accommodates up to thirty exchange students per 2-4 week periods as noted below.

- **SPRING:** April/May 2-4 week stays w/school visits
- **SUMMER:** July 3 week homestays without school visits
- **FALL:** October – TBA 2-4 weeks w/school visits

Participation requires coordination with your principal, as well as relevant members of the faculty and staff so that the exchange students may enter and visit classes with their host student. Applicable to Chicago and the Greater Metropolitan Area.

Proposed Plan

In order to achieve the program objectives, we will employ the following strategy:

- Bonjour Chicago Director Julie Farias will conduct a 30-40-minute presentation to students and relevant administrators, faculty, and staff. The presentation consists of a 15-minute overview of the program, followed by a 15-minute question and answer period.
- Students interested in pursuing the program may register with the director at the end of the presentation.
- Follow-up communications between the director and registrants will be conducted outside of school hours until the day that the exchange student begins his or her visit to your organization.
- Exchange students will arrive at your organization with the director and their host student, who will help them obtain their identification badge and visit their first class.
- Exchange students will sit in on classes on any day during their 2-week stay that Bonjour Chicago does not have an educational outing planned. Exchange students typically attend classes 3-5 days per week during their 2-4 week stay.

Costs

There is **no cost** to your organization for participating in our Program. Exchange students bring their own spending money and pay for any meals eaten outside the host's home. Hosts are expected only to board their exchange student and provide meals in the home. A small stipend may be provided by Bonjour Chicago if a host family cannot afford to pay for the students meals in the home.



Bonjour Chicago Contact Information

Company Headquarters:

Address: 4849 N. Moody Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
Phone: (847) 650-6550
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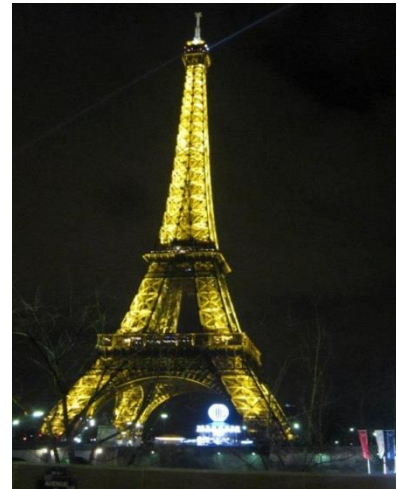
Bonjour Chicago's U.S. Partner:

Aaron and Angela Gilbert
The Maine French Exchange
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Bonjour Chicago's Partners Abroad:

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References

Please see Appendix B for testimonials from our previous clients. You may also contact the following people to discuss their experience in our program and to ask any questions you may have:

Former Chicago Host Families

Mr. & Mrs. Andy Jarzyna
Chicago, IL 60646
Ph: (773) 628-7395
Email: cjarzyna@comcast.net

Ms. Cynthia Morgan
Des Plaines, IL 60016
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Phil and Amanda Pinc
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Lucas Farias
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Former French Exchange Student Families

Antoine Douin
Neuilly, France
Email: Antoine@orange.fr

M. & Mme. Beardsley
Paris, France
Email: Lucasbeardsley@gmail.com

Lea Ernault
Lissieux, France
Email: lea.ernault@orange.fr



Conclusion

Bonjour Chicago is confident that our Cultural Exchange Program will provide valuable learning experiences for both our students abroad and your students. We sincerely hope that you will consider us as a partner and allow us to enter into a mutually satisfying relationship. We are available to answer any questions you may have and look forward to discussing this opportunity further. Should you have any questions or need clarification regarding any of the information in this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Bonjour Chicago
Julie Farias, Director

P.847.650.6550
bonjourchicago@hotmail.com
www.bonjourchicago.org

*“Our heritage and ideals, our code and standards
- the things we live by and teach our children
are preserved or diminished by how freely
we exchange ideas and feelings.”
~ Walt Disney*



Appendix A

Sample French Student Profile

Meet Philippine Sentenac, from Garches, France

Dear Host Family:
My name is Philippine. I'm 16 and I'm in the 9th grade. I'm from France and I live next to Paris. I have two older sisters (Biana 16 years old). I have already been in the USA twice, one with my family (four years ago) from San Francisco to Las Vegas mainly in national parks and once in a summer camp last summer (in Maine). I would like to know the top in America to perform my English and to know more about American people and their culture which is very different from mine. I love meeting people and people says that I'm quite nice, curious and I always smile. I'm fond of music, sailing, even if I'm not really good at it, swimming and when I heard about Chicago, the Great Lakes, the courts in the park, I couldn't resist! I wanted to discover your day life as an American. With my family, I used to hike every summer in mountains like the Alps, the Pyrenees or the Dolomites. I love nature, camping and the animals like dogs, horses, cats (I have one called Smokey), rabbits... I love cooking and trying new recipes! I'm also fond of shopping and walking on the main streets with my friends. In winter, I also love surfing with some friends and my family. I hope my letter will help you to know me better and I can't wait to hear from you!

Has studied English for 6 years and speaks it quite well.

Loves sports - swimming, skiing, boating, hiking, sailing, and going to the beach.

Favorite subject is Math.

Loves animals!

Wants to explore American teen culture such as shopping, music & fashion.

Has visited the U.S. - Some national parks out west and a camp in Maine.



Appendix B

Testimonial

February 8, 2013

Mrs. Carol Jarzyna
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Chicago, IL 60646
Ph: (773) 628-7395
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My family participated in Bonjour Chicago's French exchange program in April of 2012. I have two children, who I feel benefitted greatly from living with the high school student we hosted from Lisieux, France. In addition to being exposed to the French language, they learned much about our student's culture.

For instance, our student, Lea, taught us how to make several French foods, including my children's favorite, freshly baked Nutella croissants. While Lea worked on improving her English, we learned some French by trying to help her translate what she wanted to say. She taught the kids how to say lots of fun things in French, which they greatly enjoyed, and remember even now. We also learned about popular culture in France. We were surprised that fashion-conscious Parisians love American jeans, especially Levis. Lea brought us two lovely gifts—books featuring her native Normandy. One of them was written in English, the other was written in French. We still use these books to learn about this region and practice reading in French. Lea supervised our children in some artwork, and we still have her example hanging in our home as a reminder of the fun times we had together. I was surprised to see the artwork my children made for Lea when I visited her home in Lisieux. She also saved their artwork, one of which was the Chicago flag, as a memento.

We were overwhelmed when Lea invited our whole family to stay with her in France. While we could not afford the trip for everyone, it was still wonderful to stay at her home in Normandy as well as at her uncle's home in Paris for a week in the following fall. We highly recommend Bonjour Chicago's exchange program as a unique educational and cultural experience.

Sincerely,

Carol Jarzyna



Merci Beaucoup

