

Tentative Ambassador Schedule – 2008-09

2008

Note: *It is important that student attend each of the appointed activities*

- September 10** Scholarship Applications become available at counselor's offices
- October 27** Scholarship Applications completed and returned (Postmarked no later than this date)
Applicants must be available for interviews on November 8 (no exceptions).
- November 8** Finalists interview starting at 9AM in Cedar Rapids, location provided at notification of selection. Parents are invited to meet with members of the Homestay Program committee while applicants are being interviewed
- November 11 or
December 9** Czech Heritage Foundation (CHF) Board of Directors determine number of participants
- December** Must submit signed Consent to Conditions of Participation Agreement

2009

- February 10** Orientation Meeting, *Location to be determined*, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Parents/Guardians must attend with student. Immediately following: Czech Heritage Fdn. Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ambassadors and parents/guardians introduced. You must bring a short article for CHF newsletter about yourself and your activities. Include a photograph (wallet size school photo preferred)
- TBA** St. Joseph's Day Parade, *Time and location to be announced*
- March 22** St. Joseph's Day Dance (Homestay Program Benefit Dance), 2-6 p.m. Elk's Lodge, 801 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids
- April 6,13,20** Czech language classes, 5:30-7:30 pm, *Location to be determined* (\$45.95 for classes and book—Say it in Czech)
- May 12** Orientation Meeting, *Location to be determined*, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (By this night, must supply proof of passport, health and travel insurance, etc...)
- May 26** Orientation Meeting, *Location to be determined*, Cedar Rapids, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- June 9** Depart for Prague (Tentative date)
- July 9** Return from Prague (Tentative date)
- July 29** Debriefing meeting with Homestay Committee, *Location to be determined* (Students only). Bring a short article, 350 words or less, summarizing your experience for the CHF newsletter. Include 1 or 2 photos. Submit copy to your school and local newspaper
- August 11** Presentation of your trip during the annual Czech Heritage Foundation Potluck, *Location to be determined*, 6PM
- Mid-August** Czech students arrive here to begin their Homestay in the U.S.
- August - Oct.** Share your experience with a minimum of three (3) audiences
- Sept. – Oct.** Assist to promote program by contacting your school's guidance counselor. Discuss benefits of program with school staff and students.

Questions can be directed to Pam Kostle 319-846-2647 or Judy Serbousek 319-848-7554
Meeting locations are still being determined due to prior locations being flooded in 2008

Homestay Scholarship Application Summer 2009

All blanks must be completed or application will not be considered

Full Legal Name: Last _____ **First** _____ **Middle** _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Phone () _____ **Cell Phone ()** _____

Active E-Mail Address _____

Date of Birth _____ **Gender** _____ **Social Security # (optional)** _____

School Attending _____ **Current Grade Level** _____

Current Classes _____

School Activities/Clubs _____

Volunteer & Paid Work Experiences _____

Hobbies/Leisure Activities _____

How do you spend your summer vacations? _____

Experiences living away from home (ie: camp, travel, etc.) _____

Travel experience (USA & Abroad) _____

Foreign Language Abilities: Language _____ **Years Studied** _____

Level of Fluency: Minimal ___ **Fair** ___ **Good** ___ **Excellent** ___

Guardian(s) _____

If parents are divorced or separated, list all information for both

Guardian's Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Guardian's Home Phone () _____ **Cell Phone ()** _____

Guardian's Active E-Mail Address _____

Guardian's Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Guardian's Home Phone () _____ **Cell Phone ()** _____

Guardian's Active E-Mail Address _____

Names and ages of siblings _____

How did you hear about the Homestay Program? _____

Would you and your family (check with guardian) like to host a Czech student in your home for one month in August/September? Yes _____ **No** _____

This is not mandatory but has been found to be a fantastic experience.

Are you or your family a member of the Czech Heritage Foundation? Yes _____ **No** _____

- *If no, please complete the membership application and submit membership dues, membership is mandatory. Membership applications can be downloaded at:
<http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org/forms/membership.pdf>*

On another page in written, printed or typed form, please answer the following questions:

- Why do you want to spend a month in the Czech Republic?
- What will you contribute as a member of your host family?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience?
- List ALL parents, grandparents, etc. of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian ancestry.
- What ethnic traditions do you and your family observe?

Contact a faculty member, clergy, or employer (no relationship to student) and ask them to complete the attached Letter of Reference Questionnaire.

- Attach to application OR
- Supply the adult reference with a stamped, addressed envelope for mailing

Return completed application by mail to:

Pam Kostle, CHF Homestay Committee
PO Box 111, Walford, IA 52351

Application must be postmarked no later than: October 27, 2008

I hereby declare my application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and furthermore, I agree to the rule of the Czech Heritage Foundation Homestay Program.

I understand that in order to qualify I must submit the completed application, the committee must receive the letter of reference, and if selected for an interview, I must be available on Saturday November 8, 2008.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Homestay Letter of Reference Questionnaire

Thank you for providing a Letter of Reference for this applicant who wishes to participate in the Czech Heritage Foundation Homestay Program, featuring a very special educational experience abroad. This applicant will be involved in a challenging exercise in cross-cultural adjustment which includes an extended period of living (4 weeks) as a member of a family in the Czech Republic. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people of different social and cultural backgrounds – sometimes under difficult conditions. We cannot overemphasize the value of your candid appraisal in assisting us to determine whether or not the applicant is ready for this type of experience. Please indicate by checking the appropriate spaces below your estimation of the applicant's characteristics. If additional space is needed continue on the back of the form or on a separate page. Again, thank you for your time and thoughtfulness!

Name of Homestay Program Applicant _____

Reference Name _____ **Position/Title** _____

Address _____

City, State, & Zip Code _____ **Phone** _____

Reference Signature _____ **Date** _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____ to _____ **In what capacity have you known the applicant?**

Would you enjoy having the applicant as a member of your family for a month?

Yes ___ No ___

Would you enjoy having the applicant as a member of a group for whom you were responsible? Yes ___ No ___

Applicant's ability to cope with new situations (food, discomforts, etc.):

Provide additional comments about the applicant that will assist us in determining applicant's ability to participate in the Homestay Program (continue on back if needed):

Mail completed form to Pam Kostle, CHF Homestay Committee, PO Box 111, Walford, IA 52351.
Postmarked by October 27, 2008.