

---

## CISV Programs: An Overview

**Junior Branch:** The very heart and soul of CISV, Junior Branch comprises young local youth between the ages of 11– 25, who develop intercultural and leadership skills through educational and social activities. These youth manage their own activities and take an active role in the responsibilities of our chapter. Junior Branch activities are aimed at building community, developing skills, and promoting peace through education and awareness.

**Mosaic:** This local, project-based program empowers members of all ages to volunteer and participate in their community. Each distinct project is developed in partnership with like-minded organizations and community groups.

**Village:** A unique four-week international program that brings together delegations, from 12 countries. The delegations participate in a mix of educational, cultural, and sport activities and learn to live and work together. Each delegation is supported by an adult leader.

**Interchange:** Interchange takes place in two ‘phases’ – the delegates visit another country and is hosted there by CISV families and then the hosting delegations comes and is hosted here. Interchange exchanges gives the whole family a chance to experience another culture and be apart of the program.

**Step Up:** Delegations of 14 or 15 year old youth come from 9 countries to participate in a leadership based program. Delegates are encouraged to take responsibility for leadership and programme planning around a specific educational theme.

**Seminar:** Participants aged 17 – 18 develop their own theme and agenda for a program where they explore issues relating to individual, international, and multicultural matters. Exploration is conducted within a framework which stresses positive conflict resolution.

**Youth Meeting:** Short program with a strong focus on the theme. This program can be offered for different age groups between 12-19.

**International People’s Project:** In partnership with local organizations, delegates aged 19+ participate in hands–on work involving a specific local theme or project, such as nature conservation or immigration.

**Peace Bus:** Delegates aged 14 – 18 drive across Canada, visiting CISV chapters, carrying out community projects and volunteering, and organizing and conducting activities and events. Each delegate takes on a high degree of responsibility for planning a component of the program’s adventure.

---

*CISV educates and inspires for a more just and peaceful world.*

CISV Victoria - Registered Charity BN 118852581

[www.cisvvictoria.ca](http://www.cisvvictoria.ca)

---

## CISV FAQs

**What is CISV?** CISV is an independent volunteer organization in over 70 countries worldwide. CISV's network of volunteers provides unique, local educational programs as well as at international programs that bring together youth from different cultures. These opportunities foster a respect for cultural differences and diversity, help identify common values, and develop self awareness and leadership skills. CISV empowers each participant to incorporate these values into their lives as they become global citizens.

**What does CISV mean?** When CISV started in 1951, it was called Childrens' International Summer Villages and the only program was the Village programme for 11-year-olds. The international organization eventually expanded to include other program and the name was officially shortened to just CISV.

**What's a typical CISV meeting like?** They're FUN and INTERESTING and PLANNED BY YOUTH, with adult support. Meetings include a mix of activities around one of our educational pillars with a discussion component. CISV Victoria holds a monthly two-hour meetings. Special activities, such as weekend Mini-Camps or local volunteer projects, are also offered.

**Where will my child travel with CISV?** Every year, CISV Victoria members are invited to programs that are hosted by more than 70 CISV countries. Opportunities vary from year to year, depending on which countries host which programs and how our members' interests and age groups match with available programme opportunities.

While destinations may vary, the core learning opportunities are the same. All CISV events and programs draw upon a roster of activities that are specifically designed to meet each programs learning goals.

**Do all CISV members have to travel?** Absolutely not. CISV is about much much more than travel. In fact, many members decide not to travel with a CISV program and participate through the wide range of local activities such as our monthly activities and volunteer events.

**How old are CISV program leaders?** Junior counsellors are 16-17 years old and leaders must be at least 21. All leaders do through a local training process as well as national training events and have background checks and first aid training. Leaders are often CISVers who loved their own program experience or family members who want experience CISV themselves!

**How can I join CISV?** Youth are welcome to come out to any meeting or events and try out CISV! We recommend attending one of our Mini-Camps to get a real feel for our organisation,

Membership forms are under the *Joining CISV* link at [www.CISVvictoria.ca](http://www.CISVvictoria.ca)

---

*CISV educates and inspires for a more just and peaceful world.*