

## Making the decision to travel with CISV

CISV offers the opportunity for your child to participate in some amazing programmes and involve themselves in a range of value based, educational and multi-cultural experiences! There are a lot of family discussions to have and decisions to be made prior to applying, and we hope to be able to answer a few questions up front to help.

CISV International has approximately 62 participating countries, and programmes are held in various locations around the world, usually during July and August. While dates are determined by the Host chapter and are included on the initial invitation to participate, they are not finalized until March, so please be prepared to be flexible with travel dates and commitments.

### Applying for a Program

Parents of prospective delegates and travellers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the CISV programme they've chosen. It is important to take time to discuss the CISV program goals with your child so that they have an idea of what to expect and what they can contribute to make the experience successful. Parents help make this all possible by committing to the program and all it entails to continue the success.

In order to attend, participants must be the appropriate programme age for at least *one* day during the camp program period:

- Summer: June 1 and August 31
- Winter: November 1 and January 31
- Spring: March 1 and May 31

Families that are interested in applying for a program can submit an application and all travellers – and at least one of their parents – participate in an interview process to share their goals and expectations of the programme they've applied for.

Program delegates whose applications are received by the submission date are usually selected through a random draw. Applications received after the submission dates are eligible for remaining spaces. If there is more than one destination offered you cannot choose where your child goes; however if finances are a problem a preference can be indicated, and we will do our best to accommodate, although no guarantees can be made.

Filling a JC position is the exception – there are very few invitations for this program and Victoria is very lucky to get even one JC invitation for this highly desired opportunity. Selection is based on a candidate's participation in the Village program, and their interaction and leadership with the kids.

### Costs

Fees and other program costs are kept as low as possible in this non-profit, volunteer based organization. National and local program administration, insurance, and training are some considerations taken into account when calculating total fees associated with each program, in addition to the estimated travel costs, spending money and incidental expenses.

Should you decide to apply for a spot in one of the camp opportunities, please be prepared to pay the costs associated with the program as well as support the delegation meetings for the CISV experience.

Some of the costs families will want to take into consideration are:

Programme expenses	Travel expenses
CISV Family membership National Programme Fee Local Chapter Fee Leader Training Airfare (including the delegate's shared portion of the leader's airfare) CISV Travel Insurance Visas Shared Delegation Leader costs	Pre-travel incidentals Delegate bonding activities Travel outfits Traders Host, camp and leader gifts Spending money Emergency money

CISV travellers are responsible for all air and ground travel costs to and from the camp. Delegations are also collectively responsible to cover the leaders training and travel costs. Fees depend on the length of the program and destination airfare.

Fees are non-refundable once the delegates' family has committed to participate. Illness, accident, weather, and/ or other unforeseen circumstances that may contribute to cancelation are excellent reasons why CISV travel insurance is required to avoid loss of other cost investments.

For all 2016 programs, once a delegate has been invited to participate in a programme a \$1000 travel deposit is required upon acceptance, and the balance will be invoiced as Victoria CISV incurs costs (i.e. airfare). Invoices are due upon receipt.

Delegation Travellers: for participants travelling as part of a delegation (Village, Step Up), CISV Victoria purchases airline tickets on behalf of the delegation to ensure the group travels together with the leader. The best fares and the most efficient travel itinerary are taken into consideration when making these arrangements. It is not possible to apply airline miles for delegate travel, nor for families to make separate travel arrangements for a delegate. Delegation members are expected to travel with their delegation both to and from the camp.

Individual Travellers: participants traveling alone (JCs, Seminar Camp and IPP) make their own travel arrangements, purchase their own airline tickets and may use airline miles if they wish. Our dedicated Travel expert and long time CISVer Alison Hastings is available to provide help and travel services.

## **Family Considerations**

Both parents/guardians must sign all CISV legal and health forms, and provide a notarized copy of any custody and/or legal guardianship arrangements before any travel is allowed.

For delegation families - be prepared to commit and participate in the team building activities with the leaders prior to travel – it is important you and your child get to know the adult leader and the other participants prior to departure in order to build the necessary relationships and trust needed for success.

Acceptance of a travel invitation includes the obligation to actively participate in the chapter before travel and for at least the membership year afterward. This obligation applies to the travelling delegate and to parents, as outlined in the agreement that is signed when you apply for a travel programme.

## **Enjoy the experience of a lifetime!**

CISV staff work hard to create camps that provide a safe, fun setting in which your child will learn, with children from around the world, about each others' lives and cultures and how to communicate, cooperate and live together. Together with help from you, the learning experiences and the friendships made will last your child a lifetime.

## **Helpful Links**

Additional program participation information can be found on the CISV Victoria, Canada or International Resources page and we are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

CISV International  
<http://www.cisv.org/>

Running or Taking Part in a CISV Programme  
<http://www.cisv.org/resources/running-or-taking-part-in-educational-programmes/>

CISV Canada  
<http://www.cisv.org/about-us/our-world/americas/cisv-canada/cisv-canada-website/>

CISV Victoria  
<http://www.cisvvictoria.ca/>