

## United Planet/ICYE USA National Profile 2018-2019



Boston Skyline and Charles River

*"Individually, we are one drop.  
Together, we are an ocean"*  
-Ryunosuke Satoro

# Table of Contents

1. History of United Planet.....	2
2. Who is United Planet?.....	3
2.1. What We Do	
2.2. Where We Are	
2.3. Who We Are	
3. Facts About the United States.....	4
3.1. Climate	
3.2. Geography and People	
3.3. Culture	
3.4. Social Features	
3.5. Economy/Finances	
3.6. Government	
3.7. Language	
4. Profile of an Exchange.....	10
4.1. Who is Eligible?	
4.2. What are the Requirements?	
4.3. Certificate of Good Conduct	
4.4. Written References	
5. Program.....	11
5.1. Orientation	
5.2. Mid-Year Camp	
5.3. Final Evaluation	
6. Placements.....	12
6.1. Accommodations	
6.2. Meals	
6.3. Language Classes	
7. Transportation.....	13
8. Health & Safety.....	14
9. Visa + Other Information.....	16
10. Rules and Regulations.....	18
11. Exchangee Documents.....	19
11.1. Contract for ICYE Exchangees	
11.2. Confidential Reference	
12. Checklist (Requirements Before Departure).....	21
13. Conclusion.....	22

# History of United Planet

## Joint Cooperation

United Planet (UP) is the U.S. American member of the ICYE Federation, one of the longest running volunteer organizations in the world. As an international, Boston-based, non-profit organization dedicated to broadening mutual understanding, friendship, and peace among cultures, UP has partnered with ICYE to re-establish ICYE's program in the United States and Canada.

ICYE and UP have been teamed up since 2004 to bridge the gap between American and Canadian volunteers and the rest of the world. At the ICYE General Assembly in Costa Rica in 2011, United Planet became a full member of ICYE. As such, United Planet will both send and receive enthusiastic and committed exchangeees within the ICYE Federation.

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# Who is United Planet?

## What We Do

As featured on CNN, United Planet provides a diverse and creative range of international, community-based, and online programs to achieve global understanding. Initiated in 2000, United Planet was officially founded as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the United States on September 19, 2001. United Planet has expanded its membership and volunteer base to encompass over 100 countries during the past 5 years. The response to the quality and diversity of UP's programs has been very favorable both in the US and abroad.

## Where We Are

United Planet is located in Boston, one of America's most historical and beautiful cities. With more universities and colleges than any other US city and a young international population, Boston is an ideal point of entry for exchangees into the United States. During orientation, exchangees will have an opportunity to explore and become immersed in this vibrant city.

## Who We Are

You will meet various members of the United Planet team while in the United States. United Planet's Board of Directors and Advisors play an active role in the organization, working closely with our staff and volunteer members to provide excellent services and generate new and exciting programs. The internationalism of the United Planet team reflects the mission of the organization. All UP team members are enthusiastic and passionate, and very excited to be working with you on this wonderful opportunity.

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# Facts about the United States

## Climate

Due to the size of the United States, it is not possible to define one climate for the entire country. In general we have four seasons: fall, winter, spring and summer. The length of these periods varies according to region. The US is mostly temperate, but tropical in Hawaii and Florida, arctic in Alaska, semiarid in the Great Plains west of the Mississippi River, and arid in the Great Basin of the southwest. Low winter temperatures in the northwest are ameliorated occasionally in January and February by warm winds from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Situated in the northern hemisphere, the cooler months of the year are from November to March, while the warmer months last from April to October. We recommend you consult an online weather group such as [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) or [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) for the most current and up to date weather alerts.

## Geography and people

**Location:** North America, bordering both the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Pacific Ocean, between Canada and Mexico

**Geographic coordinates:** 38 00 N, 97 00 W

**Map references:** North America

**Area:** *total:* 9,629,091 sq km  
*land:* 9,158,960 sq km  
*water:* 470,131 sq km  
*note:* includes only the 50 states and District of Columbia

**Area - comparative:** about one-half the size of Russia; about three-tenths the size of Africa; about one-half the size of South America (or slightly larger than Brazil); slightly larger than China; about two and one-half times the size of Western Europe

**Land Boundaries:** *total:* 12,248 km  
*border countries:* Canada 8,893 km (including 2,477 km with Alaska), Cuba 29 km (US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay), Mexico 3,326 km

*note:* Guantanamo Naval Base is leased by the US and thus remains part of Cuba

**Coastline:** 19,924 km

- Terrain:** vast central plain, mountains in west, hills and low mountains in east; rugged mountains and broad river valleys in Alaska; rugged, volcanic topography in Hawaii
- Elevation extremes:** *lowest point:* Death Valley -86 m  
*highest point:* Mount McKinley 6,194 m
- Natural resources:** coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber
- Land use:** *Arable land:* 19%  
*permanent crops:* 0%  
*permanent pastures:* 25%  
*forests and woodland:* 30%  
*other:* 26% (1993 est.)
- Natural hazards:** tsunamis, volcanoes, and earthquake activity around Pacific Basin; hurricanes along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts; tornadoes in the Midwest and southeast; mud slides in California; forest fires in the west; flooding; permafrost in northern Alaska, a major impediment to development
- Environment - current issues:** air pollution resulting in acid rain in both the US and Canada; the US is the largest single emitter of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels; water pollution from runoff of pesticides and fertilizers; very limited natural fresh water resources in much of the western part of the country require careful management; desertification
- Geography - note:** world's third-largest country (after Russia and Canada)
- Population:** 323,995,528 (October 2016 est.)
- Age structure:** 0-14 years: 20.2% (male 31,639,127/female 30,305,704)  
15-64 years: 67% (male 102,665,043/female 103,129,321)  
65 years and over: 12.8% (male 16,901,232/female 22,571,696) (2009 est.)
- Nationality:** *noun:* American(s)  
*adjective:* American
- Ethnic groups:** white 79.96%, black 12.85%, Asian 4.43%, Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97%, native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander 0.18%, two or more races 1.61% (July 2007 estimate)

*note:* a separate listing for Hispanic is not included because the US Census Bureau considers Hispanic to mean persons of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin including those of Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Dominican Republic, Spanish, and Central or South American origin living in the US who may be of any race or ethnic group (white, black, Asian, etc.); about 15.1% of the total US population is Hispanic

**Religions:** Protestant 51.3%, Roman Catholic 23.9%, Mormon 1.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Jewish 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, Muslim 0.6%, other or unspecified 2.5%, unaffiliated 12.1%, none 4% (2007 est.)

**Languages:** English, Spanish (spoken by a sizable minority)

**Literacy:** *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population:* 99%  
*male:* 99%  
*female:* 99% (2003 est.)

Social Features<sup>1</sup> \*\*for more information on cultural differences we suggest visiting the following website:  
<http://www.edupass.org/culture/>

## Culture

### Personal Space

Acceptable personal space varies from culture to culture. You may find, while here in America, that social responses vary from your own home. In general, Americans require more “personal space” than many other cultures. Many times if you come too close to an American while in conversation, he or she will feel as if you are invading his or her space and will try to back away. Try to become aware of any reactions while talking to people and react accordingly. For instance, if while in conversation you find the other person leaning back or taking a step back, instead of closing that gap, let the other person set the personal space and talk from a further distance apart.

Also, Americans in general do not make a lot of physical contact when talking to strangers or casual acquaintances. Shake hands when you initially meet another person. Americans do not generally kiss or hug when greeting unless the two greeters are close friends.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.edupass.org/culture/>

## **Social Features**

Americans are typically very friendly and will often plan social visits for new acquaintances on short notice. Do not feel required to accept the invitation. If you are busy, politely decline and suggest another date and time to meet again.

If a friend has invited you to “drop by anytime” to his or her home, office or school, always call ahead of time just to confirm. While there, try not to stay too long unless otherwise invited.

Invitations are normally done over the phone or in person unless they are to a “special” event. If you are invited to someone’s home for dinner it is polite to bring a small gift as a gesture of your appreciation (though not required). Gifts such as a bottle of wine, candy, flowers, or small house gift are all acceptable, but again not necessary. Many Americans will invite you into their home and ask you to “make yourself at home”. Many will give you a full tour of the house and will invite you to “help yourself” to whatever you want. In general Americans will extend open invitations to you as a guest, if you are unsure if something is appropriate just ask, Americans generally are very responsive and friendly when responding to questions.

We encourage all of our exchangeees to take advantage of the unique opportunity to talk, meet and interact with Americans in various social settings.

## **Dress**

In comparison with many other countries of the world, the US culture regarding dress is very casual. Common attire for young adults will almost always include jeans, a cotton shirt, and sandals or sneakers. In the metropolitan areas, such as Chicago, New York, or Boston, fashion can be much more eclectic, international, and trendy. In turn, fashion tends toward the traditional in the more rural or suburban areas of the United States. However, the most important thing to remember is that the US is extremely multi-cultural, and it will be very easy to blend in and feel accepted into the culture and society.

## **Religion**

The US is a secular state, which means that there is no official state religion. In addition, because the US is so multi-cultural, with large populations of immigrants from all over the world, it is also very pluralistic. However, it can be very surprising for visitors to learn how devotional the population of the US is in terms of religion. In many states, especially those of the south and mid-west, Christianity, and specifically Protestantism, can be a very important social influence in the small communities. In the

metropolitan areas, religion will often become less of a social factor. In conclusion, if you have a religious affiliation, you will most likely be able to find a strong and vibrant community that shares your convictions, and if not, you will never feel isolated or uncomfortable. Remembering to be polite and non-judgmental is the most important thing you can do.

### Economy/Finances

Prices in the United States are normally a lot higher in cities than in smaller towns, thus the great difference in price for the same product. Prices may also vary greatly from shop to shop, so it is worth looking around! Below is a list of typical items and their general costs to give a better idea of what exchangeees may spend while abroad:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Price</i>
U.S. Stamp within the 50 states	\$.49
Local bus/subway ticket	\$2.00-\$2.50
Newspaper	\$1.50 (Sunday 2.00)
Shampoo	\$5.00-\$10.00
Soft Drinks	\$1.25
Hamburger	\$2.50-\$5.00
A cup of coffee	\$1.00-\$3.50
A beer in a pub	\$3.00-\$6.00
Cinema ticket	\$8.00-\$11.00
Film developing	\$7.00-\$12.00
Train journeys: Boston – New York (one way)	\$65.00
Bus journeys: Boston – New York	\$15.00
(one way) New York – Washington DC	\$37.00
Washington DC- Chicago	\$87.00
Hostel accommodation (with bed and breakfast)	\$25.00-\$65.00

### Government

Government Type: Federal Republic

Administrative divisions: 50 states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming) and two districts (District of Colombia, the capital of the United States of America and Puerto Rico)

Independence: July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 (July 4<sup>th</sup> is a national holiday)

Executive Branch: *Head of state and head of government*- President Barack Obama (since 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 until January 2017)

*Cabinet*- appointed by the president with Senate approval

*Elections*- President and Vice-President elected on same ticket by a college of representatives who are elected directly from each state.

*Terms*- President and Vice President serve four-year terms

Political Parties: Democratic Party and Republican Party are the main parties.

### Language

English is the language spoken by the majority of Americans. Being fluent or very close to fluent, in the English language is the most important thing you can do in order to feel integrated and accepted by the society. It will enable you to communicate and form personal relationships with those individuals at your placement, your fellow volunteers, and those people you meet going about your day-to-day activities. That being said, Americans will take great pleasure in helping you to perfect your English, especially when it comes to slang. If you hear someone speaking and use a word you don't know or understand, always ask to have it explained. The use of US slang will be covered during the orientation.

With the increased number of immigrants from Latin American countries, Spanish is spoken in many areas of the U.S. as well. The U.S. is a country of immigrants and in larger cities you will hear languages spoken from all over the world.

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## Profile of an Exchangee

### Who is eligible?

**Age:** Exchangees must be between the ages of 18 and 30. However, United Planet is willing to review applications from exchangees over 30.

### What are the requirements?

**Language:** It is **very important** that before arriving to the United States you have a proficient level in English. Exchangees must be conversationally fluent in order to perform volunteer tasks. Exchangees must be comfortable in a working environment with other native English speakers. Before acceptance, all exchangees are required to have a skype interview with a project staff to confirm English proficiency.

### Certificate of good conduct

All ICYE exchangees must be trustworthy, honest, and law-abiding in character. It is *essential* that you obtain a certificate from the police force in your country confirming that you have *no criminal record and that you have no previous criminal convictions*. All ICYE's projects insist on this certificate in order to ensure a safe environment for those with whom they work, many of them may be vulnerable or at risk. This certificate must be sent to UP *with your application form*.

### Written references

We require two written references to submit to our volunteer projects. We ask that one reference be from your employer or teacher and another from someone who has known you for a long time. They should say a bit about your character, reliability, maturity, etc. These forms **MUST** be in English. We have included a reference form below for your convenience.

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# Program

## Orientation

When you arrive in the US, you will begin with the Orientation together with the other exchangeees from around the world. It normally lasts for 5 days. You will attend language and cultural sessions and also enjoy a variety of excursions and social activities. All of these activities are designed to make you feel welcome, introduce American life and culture, and prepare you for life for the next six months or one year.

It is not only important that you learn about the USA, but it is also important to us that we learn about you and your country. We will have international presentations – this is not only a chance for you to tell the group about your country, but also a great way to practice your English. Please bring photos, music and things from your country, so that we can learn as much as possible about where you come from.

## Mid-year camp

This camp is offered for one-year exchangeees only and will be held in the middle of your exchange year. With other exchangeees, staff and UP volunteer members, you will be able to discuss any problems you might have encountered, and will spend some time reflecting on your experiences. We hope this will help prepare you for the second half of your year in the USA!

## Final Evaluation

The final evaluation is another weekend camp. This will be the final time you will meet with your exchangeee group. The evaluation is a chance to discuss your year in the USA, celebrate your accomplishments, and prepare to go home to your own country. You will also be equipped with concrete suggestions on how to share your intercultural experiences with people in your home communities and to stay involved in ICYE and UP activities.

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# Placements

## Accommodations

Your project will provide you with accommodation. Different types of accommodation include:

- Your own bedroom in the project, with access to a shared bathroom and kitchen.
- A bedroom that you share with other exchangees or volunteers at the project.
- An apartment outside the project where 2-6 exchangees live together.
- Dormitory style housing with shared bath

Accommodation is typically basic but comfortable.

## Meals

Meals are often eaten at the project but in some cases you will receive money to buy and prepare your own food.

## Language Classes

All activities and programming are conducted in English and exchangees are encouraged to ask questions of the UP Team and take language notes while exploring Boston. Informal English lessons may be provided, please speak with a coordinator for more information.

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## Transportation

Exchangees are required to pay for their own air transportation within the US since placements are located throughout such a vast geographical area.

United Planet recommends the following websites for information on domestic flights:

- Expedia Travel [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)
- Kayak [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)
- Student Universe [www.studentuniverse.com](http://www.studentuniverse.com)
- Travelocity [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com)
- Southwest Airlines [www.southwest.com](http://www.southwest.com)
- Jetblue [www.jetblue.com](http://www.jetblue.com)

United Planet will provide assistance with booking domestic transportation if requested.

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## Health and Safety

Here at United Planet, the health and safety of all of our exchangees is of the utmost importance. This is our promise to you:

- 1) All of our program sites and partners are vetted for safety. We will never place an exchangee in a location that is deemed unsafe for living or traveling. We monitor daily all our program sites domestically and worldwide for any incidents or changes to location safety.
- 2) All of our staff are trained in how to respond to any issues or needs and this training is renewed bi-annually. You will receive training on how to stay health and safe in your new home. You are invited to ask questions any time!
- 3) Even with the good program design and monitoring and safety training for staff and exchangees, things can still go wrong. We have a comprehensive emergency procedures plan in place with all resources at our finger tips should we need to enact that. You have a system in 3 countries supporting you for a safe and successful program!

We will do all we can on our end to make this program as safe as possible for you. What we require of you is to do the same. Ultimately, your health and safety comes down to the decisions you make for yourself. We ask that you make good decisions that do not put you in unhealthy or dangerous circumstances. We are happy to discuss anything with you so that you are 100% confident in doing this!

### Emergency Relocation/Evacuation Plan

In the unlikely event of emergency relocation/evacuation, stay calm, use common sense, and follow these steps:

1. Get to a safe location-first priority
2. Go to your host family or, local accommodation if it is safe to do so. If an alternative location has been identified by your Country Coordinator, this will be explained in orientation.
3. The Country Coordinator will meet you or call your host family or accommodation, if possible and safe to do so.

4. A plan will be made with the Country Coordinator, Boston Office, appropriate embassies, travel insurance company, etc for relocation/evacuation.
5. If your host family or accommodation location is not safe to go to, volunteers should follow the lead of their host family and host community as well as announcements on the radio and television. The Boston Office may work with the U.S. Embassy, the Red Cross, and the local police in order to communicate messages via radio, television, individual messengers, and any other available method.
6. If you can not be in contact with the Country Coordinator, you may call the 24/7 emergency assistance number for iNext insurance for advice and you are covered for natural disaster and political evacuation
7. If you do not have access to phone communication, and can communicate via other means (ie email, Facebook, or other social media) you should post communication only when you are in a safe place. Getting to safety is your first priority.

### ICYE Health Insurance

As an ICYE exchangee you will be fully covered by a comprehensive health insurance should you experience any health problems or accidents during your stay. Please note this insurance covers you for illness or accidents only – not existing conditions.

Your Sending NC will provide you with all documentation and information about the coverage. We will be happy to answer any questions during your Orientation in Boston. Please note that you may need to pay for any services at a health clinic or hospital in the U.S. then submit a claim form to the insurance company for reimbursement. Healthcare in the U.S. is expensive, even for short doctor office visits. Please have a credit card or other back-up form of payment should this be necessary. We can help you process claims with the insurance company.

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## Visa and other information

U.S. Immigration requires that all incoming ICYE exchangees apply for a B-1 (Temporary visitor for Business) status visa. The B-1 visa is applicable to exchangees working solely as volunteers WITHOUT attending school, college, university or any other tertiary education facility (Note: this does not include private supplemental English classes provided by United Planet). Exchangees are NOT permitted to be employed for wages during their stay. The B-1 visa is valid for up to one year.

Upon acceptance into the program, United Planet will issue two copies of the letter of invitation to the exchangee. One copy of the letter of invitation must be presented to the US Embassy in the exchangee's home country. It usually takes at least 2 to 3 months to receive a visa; however, this processing period varies per country. Please take this into consideration and apply early!

All our exchangees are encouraged to visit the US Immigration website at <http://www.usimmigrationsupport.org> for information on acquiring visas. Exchangees must visit the American Embassy in their country of residence.

United Planet must have a copy of your visa before you arrive in the United States.

We recommend that exchangees use the B-1 visa for the ICYE program. However, it is difficult in some countries to acquire the B-1 visa. In this case, United Planet is also able to provide a J-1 internship visa, however the exchangee must meet all requirements before we can consider them as a viable candidate.

At the minimum to receive the J-1 visa, the exchangee must meet these 2 requirements:

- 1) Be currently enrolled in (or have graduated less than 12 months prior) a University outside of the USA.
- 2) Your area of study at University matches the work you will do at the project in the USA. (See our Work Profile for the project options.)

If you fulfill both of these requirements, please contact your NC to learn more.

## Upon Arrival

Upon arrival, you will receive an electric I-94 form (duration of stay date). **Please make sure that this date is valid for the duration of your stay: for six months or one year.** If the immigration officer questions how long you will stay, please explain your situation – that you will be volunteering unpaid in the country for six months/one year with United Planet and that your food and accommodation will be provided for during the time you are volunteering. **Please show the officer a copy of your I-94 invitation letter.**

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## Rules and regulations

- UP offers full-time voluntary work programs only. NO SCHOOL PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE.
  - Your residence visa does not allow you to hold a paid job. If an exchangee is discovered working illegally, s/he will be deported. This means that you will have to leave the country.
  - Exchangees are expected to take an active part in all ICYE orientations and camps.
  - Travel abroad before the end of your program is only possible in special occasions (i.e. with your work placement) and never without permission from UP.
  - Hitchhiking in the US can be dangerous and we therefore actively discourage this practice.
  - Exchangees known to be using illegal drugs or drinking alcohol if under the age of 21 will be expelled from the program.
  - The exchange year lasts 6 months or 12 months and after that all exchangees have to return to their home country. ICYE and United Planet have no responsibility for exchangees failing to adhere to this rule.
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## Exchangee Documents

### Contract for ICYE Exchangees

1. I have read and understood UP's National Profile and accept its contents. I have paid special attention to the parts on the project requirements and the pocket money.
2. I understand that I will not live in a host-family during my year in the US.
3. I will be flexible regarding the type of placement and will not ask to change projects during my exchange year. I will not refuse to go to, or remain at a project due to its geographical location.
4. I will live in any place in the US, whether it is in the countryside or in a city.
5. I understand why the projects in the US need responsible volunteers who have a certain level of English and confirm that I am able to communicate in English.
6. I understand that I will receive my pocket money directly from the project and will not ask United Planet to pay additional money.
7. I shall not seek or accept paid employment during my exchange year.
8. I will attend the compulsory orientation, mid-year camp, and final evaluation camp as planned and organized by United Planet (unless special exception is granted).
9. I understand that I can only take 2 days per week and one week for every 4 months of work as personal days.
10. I accept that United Planet is not responsible for providing me with food and accommodation when traveling away from the volunteer host during personal/vacation days.
11. I will return to my country after my 6 month or one year exchange program. If I fail to do so, I understand that United Planet can inform the authorities. I have read and understood the above contract and agree to adhere to its content.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Confidential Reference

*Please send this contract to the United Planet office together with your application form.*

Name of exchangee: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the exchangee?

In what capacity do you/have you known the exchangee?

**On another sheet of paper, please comment on the exchangee's:**

- Ability to communicate with different kinds of people
- Reliability, adaptability and flexibility
- Maturity and ability to work independently
- His / her positive qualities
- His / her weaknesses or challenges
- Other comments/points that you feel may help United Planet to place the exchangee in a full-time project.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Checklist

*Please ensure that you have:*

- A valid passport
- Appropriate Entry Clearance / Visa (contact your local American consulate or US Embassy if you have any questions)
- 2 copies of the invitation letter – one for the Embassy in your country and one to take on the plane with you to give to the immigration official when you land in the U.S.
- A police certificate (certificate of good conduct, see 4.3). This is a certificate issued by the police confirming that you do not have a criminal record
- Two written references to UP
- Correctly issued flight ticket and that your flights are confirmed
- Warm clothes and good shoes
- All your ICYE papers - including this National Profile
- Emergency contact information
- Small gifts from your country to give to people in your project / friends
- Some information about your own country: pictures, brochures, maps, books, coins, recipes, etc.

*The following forms must be copied and sent to UP*

- A valid passport
- Appropriate Entry Clearance / Visa (contact your local American consulate or US Embassy if you have any questions).
- A police certificate (certificate of good conduct, see 4.3). This is a certificate issued by the police confirming that you do not have a criminal record.
- Two written references to UP.

**Do not bring too much – YOU will have to be able to carry your own luggage everywhere!**

When you arrive at the airport you will have to carry your own luggage to the Orientation: this means up and down stairs and for long distances between the station and the orientation itself. Afterwards you travel on your own or with other exchangees by train, bus, or airplane to your project and again **you** will need to carry your own luggage.

Exchangees often arrive with a year's supply of toiletries – these are heavy and can be bought very cheaply in the US. Just bring what you need for the orientation and buy more when you get to your project.

Backpacks are easier to carry and more convenient to store than suitcases. If you bring a suitcase make sure that **you** can carry it comfortably. One piece of advice is to pack your bag and then take out half of the stuff – you'll still have more than you need!

## Conclusion

Now that you have this information, we hope that you are as excited to visit the United States as an ICYE Exchangee with United Planet! We look forward to hearing from you and welcome any comments or questions you may have.

This is the beginning of a very fulfilling process both for you and for the people you are helping. You will have the chance to make a valuable difference while simultaneously changing your own life as well! Our mission at United Planet is to promote global awareness and foster cross-cultural understanding and friendship. We are very excited that you will become a part of this mission and are grateful for your continual support and involvement with ICYE and United Planet.

We look forward to seeing you soon here in the United States. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to call us at +1-617-874-8041 or email us at [incoming@unitedplanet.org](mailto:incoming@unitedplanet.org).

All the best and good luck!

United Planet Team

