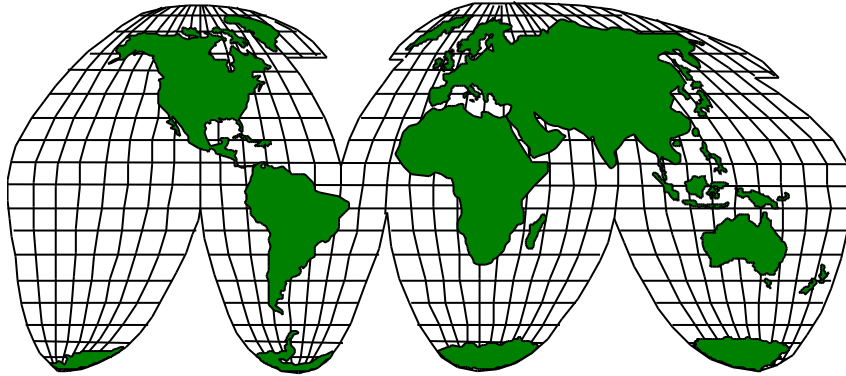




**IPIE.US**  
**International Partnerships in Education**



**International Language & Culture Camp**  
**Shenzhen, China**  
**Summer: 2017**

**Orientation Handbook**  
**Student Version**

July 06, 2017 – July 27, 2017  
(Dates subject to final confirmation)

IPIE.US  
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Collegeville, PA USA  
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**International Language & Culture Camp  
Shenzhen, China  
Summer: 2017**

**Program Structure:**

The International Language & Culture Camp is facilitated through a cooperative effort between International Partnerships in Education (Collegeville, PA. USA) and Hanbridge Mandarin (Shenzhen, GD. China).

**The Program:**

The camp program consists of a 15-day on-campus immersion experience where American and Chinese high school students will share equally in the camp experience. Students will live, learn, play, and participate in the cross-cultural activities together. An optional 3-day cultural tour of Beijing is available upon conclusion of the summer camp.

Each camp day will include foreign language instruction, educational cross-cultural lessons, and recreational activities designed to foster teamwork and trust. Instruction is provided by a dynamic international management team of certified and fully licensed American and Chinese educators. All camp activities are supported with the assistance of Chinese university students.

Six class periods, 45 minutes each, of instruction and activities are scheduled for each day. The three morning classes are designed to be instructional based while the three afternoon classes are designed to be cultural activity and recreational based. Additionally, there is a entertainment activity scheduled for each evening. Please refer to the schedule for additional information.

The Chinese language class periods will be attended by the American students only as the Chinese students will be attending English language classes during these class periods. The activity, recreational and entertainment periods will be attended by both the American and Chinese students together.

**Program Objectives:**

For a program to be considered successful in China it must benefit all of the individuals involved. The International Language & Culture Camp has been designed to benefit both the American and Chinese students.

Through this program the students are expected to have fun and make new friends while increasing their foreign language communication skills (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and increasing their knowledge of the respective Chinese and American cultures, customs, and traditions.

**Cross Cultural Expectations:**

As a participant in this program you will be a bridge between the people of your country and people of China. Expect to make many friends. The Chinese people are friendly and have a wonderful sense of humor. They have warm hearts and are tolerant of social mistakes by foreigners.

**The Successful Student:**

The work is hard and the conditions are less than ideal. The successful candidate should have a rugged and adventurous spirit. They should appreciate cultural differences and similarities. They should be flexible and adaptable to change; there will be many unexpected schedule changes throughout the program.

It is expected that students will be psychological and physically fit to participate in the program. Students must be able to climb multiple flights of stairs, and walk several miles each day. If you have any doubts about your desire or abilities to participate in this program, please don't apply.

The program is not suited to everyone. We urge you to compare programs before making application. If you think you have what it takes to be a successful, we'd love to hear from you.

**The Campus:**

The International Language and Culture Camp will be held in Shenzhen, China. Shenzhen is a modern city boasting rapid economic and high-tech development. Neighboring Hong Kong is a short distance away and is easily accessible by taxi, bus, or subway.

Classrooms are air-conditioned, although sometimes the equipment fails. Classrooms are equipped with a teacher computer and a data projector for instructional purposes. Recreational sports facilities are available on campus. It should be noted that the campus toilets are Asian style.

Students will live on-campus in shared dormitory accommodations. Students will be assigned roommates based on the matching of appropriate age and sex. Each dormitory floor will have a live-in dormitory monitor.

Meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be Chinese style and served in the campus canteen.

Students are responsible for their own laundry. They may use a laundry service at their own risk and additional expense.

**The Language Classes:**

For the foreign language classes students will be grouped by ability. For the cultural, recreational and entertainment activities both the Chinese and American students will participate together by class grade level.

The beginner level language students are expected to increase vocabulary by only a few words, phrases, or songs. More importantly the goal is to increase their interest in learning the foreign language while having fun and making new friends.

The intermediate level language students are expected to increase their conversational skills and their confidence in using the foreign language.

The advanced level language students are expected to increase their critical thinking and expression in the foreign language.

**Travel Procedures:**

All participants will depart the USA together and arrive in China together. Independent side-trips are not allowed during the program. Participants may only extend their stay in China after the program ends (at their own risk and expense) upon signing a release waiver prior to departing the USA.

**Air Transportation:**

Airline transportation will be on major commercial international and domestic airlines. All flights are non-smoking flights. Upgrades may be available at additional expense. Some domestic travel in China may be on the "bullet" train.

### **Accommodations during Camp Program:**

Students will live on-campus in shared dormitory accommodations. Students will be assigned roommates based on the matching of appropriate age and sex. Each dormitory floor will have a live-in dormitory monitor.

### **Accommodations in Beijing (Optional Tour):**

Accommodations will be based on double occupancy in a 3-star or better hotel.

### **Cultural Tour (Optional Tour):**

The cultural tour of Beijing will be full of many spectacular sights, sounds, tastes, and surprises. Naturally, tours to the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and Temple of Heaven are included!

The tour, under the direct supervision of IPIE.US, is provided by a local travel agency via private bus with a English speaking tour guide. Tours are scheduled and structured to provide a flavor for as many experiences as possible in a few short days. Some experiences you may wish lasted longer in duration and some you may wish were shorter. Something unexpected is always happens in China; just relax and enjoy.

Tips are expected by the tour guide and bus driver. A minimum one-time contribution for the tour guide and driver of (US) \$10.00 each is requested. However, you may tip more as you see fitting.

Tips for hotel bell-boys are included in the program cost.

### **Passports and Visas:**

If you have not done so, you should immediately apply for a passport. You can apply through your local Post Office or at an immigration office. It is a good idea to make photocopies of your passport (the page with your picture and passport number) and the visa page to carry in your luggage separate from your passport.

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

You will need to apply for a visa. You will be applying for a Visitor Visa.

**Do not apply for your visa until instructed!**

### **Health:**

Bring an ample supply of any medications you are taking in their original containers. These items should be packed in your carry-on luggage. Although readily available, consider bringing over-the-counter items such as aspirin, anti-diarrhea medications, decongestants, antihistamines, vitamins and mosquito repellent.

Consult with your physician on any shots, vaccinations, or antibiotics (upper respiratory/intestinal infections) that they may recommend for you. No immunizations are required to enter China.

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationChina.aspx>

Consult with your major medical provider. Request a list of names and contact numbers for participating program hospitals in Shenzhen and Beijing, China.

### **Money:**

The most convenient way to get cash is at a bank ATM. You may withdrawal the equivalent of (US) \$250 per day at most ATM's. Additionally, campus staff can help accommodate conversions.

DO NOT bring Traveler's Checks.

**Clothing/Packing:**

The nature of the program is a summer camp. Therefore, dress in comfortable summer clothes. You will be on your feet most of the time, bring comfortable shoes. Your shoes will get wet; bring at least one extra pair.

Quickly passing rain showers do occur this time of year. Bring a portable umbrella to protect you from both the rain and the sun. Sunglasses and sunscreen lotion are recommended.

Although readily available, bring your own basic personal hygiene products. Hand sanitizer type products are recommended. Public bathrooms in China often lack toilet paper so it is a good idea to carry some packets of tissues.

**Cameras and Video:**

Cameras and video equipment should be packed with your carry-on luggage. You can freely take pictures throughout China, with a few exceptions. When in doubt, ask.

**Luggage:**

Your recommended luggage allowance, for this program, is one checked bag at 50-lbs. maximum, 1 carry-on bag at 10-lbs. maximum, and one carry-on personal item. Check with your domestic and international carriers prior to arriving in the airport.

**Gifts:**

Exchanging gifts is part of the Chinese culture. Although your experience will be informal, you may want to bring some small gifts for your classroom aides.

**Internet:**

Google (Gmail), CNN, BBC and other sites are blocked in China. You will want to make sure that you have an accessible email account before departure.

**Shopping:**

Shopping in China is a fun adventure! Beware though, fake counterfeit items are abundant. For high value purchases (jewelry, jade, pearls) please consult your escorts.

**Helpful Websites:**

US American Embassy in Beijing  
<http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

US Consulate Office–Guangzhou  
<http://guangzhou.usconsulate.gov/>

**Group Dynamics:**

Each participant brings their own experience, personality, and expertise to the group. It is the group energy and enthusiasm that will ignite the minds, imaginations, and hearts of the people you meet.

**Conclusion:**

Our program's success depends upon your success. We will be available to support your efforts every step of the way. Hopefully, this handbook has provided an insight into what you can anticipate throughout your participation in the program. What this handbook can't do is to prepare you for the unexpected. China is not the USA and your flexibility will dictate your experience. We appreciate your energy and enthusiasm. We count on your feedback to make continued improvements in the program.