



friendship force  
INTERNATIONAL

## Tips for Attending an FFI World Conference

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### Preparations for attending a conference:

- Get business cards made to take with you
- Buy a nice business card holder (if you don't have one) to store your cards in and those you'll receive in exchange
- Be positive about the whole program
- Tell others about the conference
- Plan to have a great time!
- Decide to be friendly and make a lot of new friends!

### Make a packing list ahead of time:

- Take a notebook and pen for taking notes during the lectures and workshops
- Take your FF name tag
- Take a camera, iPhone, etc.
- Take a few family photos to show your new friends
- Take postcards from your area
- Take a copy of your club's newsletter, etc.
- Take extra pins to trade if your club has a supply. If not, suggest that they design and order some.

### Attending the Conference:

- Get to the FFI desk at the hotel when registration first begins
- Remember the purpose of Friendship Force: to make new friends and spread peace around the world
- This is a chance to meet the FFI staff, and get acquainted with them. Thank them for planning and organizing the conference, and offer to help them. When you attend the sessions, you'll learn more about how the organization works, about its goals, new plans, exchanges, ideas, etc.
- Make friends around the world! Put yourself out there and meet as many people as possible. Don't be shy! Introduce yourself to everyone you meet! It's a big reunion! Everyone will be hugging each other. You'll probably see someone you recognize—someone you've hosted, or who has hosted you
- Seek out loners, especially people from another country to welcome them, invite them to join you at a meal, (you can eat with your own club members when you get home!) offer to help a newbie find their way, etc.
- Get all you can from the conference by attending all the sessions
- Set your alarm to get up in time for breakfast, and meet conference attendees in the restaurant
- Sign up for some or all of the tours offered in the conference city
- Forego sightseeing or shopping on your own during times when there are conference activities taking place. If you're really interested in seeing the city in which the conference is taking place, then travel to the location a day earlier or stay a day or two afterward.
- Take notes at the sessions and all workshops. (You always think you'll remember the key points, but you'll forget a lot. Besides, taking notes helps keep you focused and stay awake!) Divide up the workshops between the attending members from your club, so your club can benefit from the various topics when your clubs' members share their new ideas at your club's meeting after you return home.
- Check to see if your club helps finance the trip for the club president or other officers.
- If none of the officers are going, then ask your board if they'd consider reimbursing a member (non-officer) for part of the fees.

### After the Conference:

- Share your enthusiasm and what you learned from the conference with your club. Possible ways to share: Organize your notes and type them up. Ask to meet with your club's officers to share your thoughts. Share your ideas at one of your club's meetings. Submit an article for your newsletter.
- Communicate with some of the people you connected with at the conference to continue the friendship.
- Register for the following year's conference as soon as it's posted on the website. Put the date on your calendar, start making travel plans and encourage other club members to go!