



friendship force
CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY

CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

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Cedar Rapids- Iowa City Friendship Force

October 2025

Calendar of Events

- Oct 15** **LEO at Daisy's Gar-**
4:30PM **age, Marion, IA**
- Oct 20th** **Club Hike in Belle-**
10:30AM **vue State Park**
- Oct 24** **Club zoom Trivia**
7:300PM
- Nov 9** **Annual Meeting /**
4:00PM **Dinner Marion, IA**
- Nov 18-24** **Out Going Journey**
 to Thailand
- Feb 22-27,** **Out Going Journey**
2026 **to Birmingham, Al**
- March 9-** **Nebraska Sandhill**
13 **Crane Journey**
- April 24-** **North American**
26 2026 **Conference**
 Memphis TN
- May 28 -** **Incoming From**
June 4 **Western Washing-**
 ton/North Idaho
- July 13-** **Quilting Journey**
18, 2026
- Sept 7-12** **Outgoing Journey to**
2026 **Peru**
- Oct 7-14,** **Incoming Journey**
2026 **from Utah**

President's Message

Dear Friendship Force friends,

It is officially fall, warm days and cool nights. Take time to enjoy this beautiful time of year and be thankful.

We had a wonderful group of 22 of our Friendship Force club friends at the recent LEO at Riverbend Bar & Grill in Manchester. The weather couldn't have been more perfect sitting on the deck overlooking the river. Lots of good conversations and getting to know our club members better. What a way to end the day. Thanks to Jerry Burke for giving us a bit of history on the city of Manchester and the newly formed river float area.

We will have another LEO on Wednesday, October 15 at Daisy's Garage in Marion at 4:30pm. Watch for Sign Up Genius. Hope to see another good crowd of our Friendship Force friends. Invite other club members and share a ride. If the weather permits, we will sit outside on the patio.

Our Annual Meeting & Dinner will be coming up on Sunday, November 9 at 4:00pm at El Viejo Mexican Restaurant located at the Best Western Longbranch Hotel. Everyone will be able to order off the menu. There will be a recap of our year's activities & journeys and voting on the new board members for 2026. Watch for Sign Up Genius. Looking for a huge crowd of our members.

Stay well, Stay safe, Enjoy each day.

Shirley Rosencrans, Club President



LEO at Daisy's Garage October 15

The next LEO has been scheduled for **October 15** at **Daisy's Garage** located **6095 Carlson Way, Marion IA**, Plan on gathering at **4:30PM**. Look for the SignUp Genius. Also remember that these LEOs are a great way to invite your friends to come check us out. See you there.

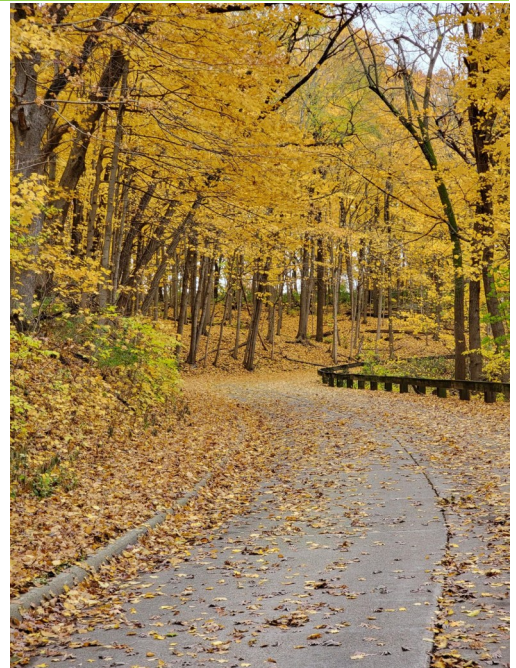


Lets go Hiking October 20

All those interested in hiking, please join us 10:30 October 20 at Bellevue State Park near the butterfly garden. We will explore the park then find a spot in town for a late lunch. We hope it will be a gorgeous fall day, but a backup date will be October 24. Hope to see you there!



If you have questions, contact Jean Thomas at 319-830-5092
jeanthomas521@gmail.com



Club Zoom Trivia October 24

The next Club Zoom trivia will be **Friday October 24th** at **7:00PM**. As usual an email with the Zoom link will be sent. Come join the fun. It is always a learning experience. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Annual Meeting November 9



The annual meeting for the Cedar Rapids Iowa City Friendship Force Club will be Sunday, **November 9, 2025 at 4:00pm at El Vieso Mexican Restaurant at the Best Western Long Branch 90 Twixt Town Rd, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 .**



We will be holding elections for the 2026 club officers. As we get closer to the date a Sign Up Genius will be sent.

Nominations for 2026 Board of Directors

Fellow Friendship Force members:

The nominations process continues for positions on the 2026 Board. There are still several openings to fill in advance of the Nov. Annual Meeting. The positions that are open include *President-elect, Journey Coordinator, Secretary, and Director at Large*. The Treasurer, Communications and Membership positions are either remaining the same or accepted. Also if there is anyone that knows social media, your help will be appreciated in our communications.

Yes it takes time and yes it requires you to think about the future of our club. Filling these positions is critical to the continued success of our Club in 2026. Please contact Stephanie Schulte at 319-350-5279 or sschulte08@gmail.com if interested in any of these positions. We need willing participation in the officer's rolls in order to keep the club thriving.

September 24th LEO at River Bend, Manchester

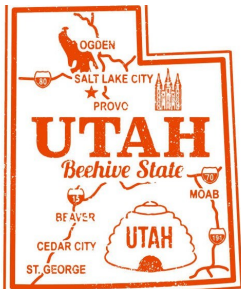


Around 20 of our members met at the Riverbend restaurant in Manchester for a LEO on September 24th. It was a beautiful evening as we gathered on their patio overlooking the Maquoketa River. The food was good, beer was cold and the comradery was fulfilling. Thanks to Jerry and Carol Burke for organizing this event. Later in the evening

Jerry shared some very informative information about Manchester and how the town and Delaware County are able to continue to provide a strong sense of pride and growth in rural Iowa.



2026 Journeys - PERU, UTAH, BIRMINGHAM



It's time to think ahead to 2026. If you are interested in any of these journeys, **NOW** is the time to let me know. Even though you may not know your availability yet, if you are at all interested let me know. Dates and plans are being set. If the stars don't align, we can take you off a list.

Consider being a leader for a Journey. Utah incoming in October 2026 needs a Host Coordinator. You don't do this alone, a committee is formed. Jerry and Carol Burke will be Host Coordinators for Western Washington/Northern Idaho. Christine Allen has already agreed to

be our Ambassador Coordinator for Peru and Nebraska (Sandhill Cranes). Jerry and Carol Burke will be the Ambassador Coordinators for Birmingham Contact , Judy

Frascht-Miner jjbm526@aol.com 319-540-1701

Peru National Symbols Clipart



Sandhill Cranes in March 2026

The Lincoln Nebraska club is willing to arrange a journey that will include the sandhill crane migration.

In early spring, over half a million sandhill cranes migrate through the Platte River Valley in central Nebraska, making it one of North America's greatest wildlife spectacles. The migration is an ancient natural event that has taken place for millions of years. The birds rest and refuel before continuing their journey north to their breeding grounds. Their loud, rattling bugle calls fill the air as they gather in the river at dawn and dusk. This natural phenomenon is the world's largest gathering of Sandhill Cranes, providing a unique opportunity for birdwatchers to observe them at dawn and dusk as they gather in the river.

Jane Goodall considers this migration one of the great ones. Listen to Jane explain how this migration continues because of the conservation efforts that saved the sandhill cranes from extinction. [Jane Goodall](#)



It is a truly amazing opportunity to observe. But it is in March in Nebraska. This means that it will probably be cold. You will want to dress warm. When you involve nature, you never know what will happen. It could involve a blizzard; birds might land further away. That is the worst-case scenario but usually you get to see one of the most amazing migrations in the world.

We do not have the price of the journey yet, but it will be more expensive than most local journeys as we will stay at least two nights in hotels in the Kearney region during a prime tourist event.

The dates for this journey are March 9-13. This means some quick planning from the Nebraska club since the spaces book up quickly. Please let Christine Allen know as soon as possible if you are interested. callenivy@gmail.com

Continued on next page...

Additional Info: From The Nebraska Journey Coordinator

Our dates are for March 9 through the 13, 2026. FFL has not yet met to plan the itinerary, but a rough agenda might be: Arrive in Lincoln and welcome activities on March 9. Travel to the Grand Island-Kearney area on March 10-12, returning late to Lincoln on Thursday evening. Farewell activities and departure to Iowa on March 13. Viewing the Sandhills Cranes in early morning and evening, field viewing, visiting Stuhr Museum, Crane Trust in Alda, Rowe Audubon Sanctuary and Fort Kearney State Park are potential stops. ***Other educational activities will be planned, but if your members have special interests, please let us know.***

This trip will include two nights of hotel stays, and the accommodations are yet to be determined. Our club could possibly host 8-10 ambassadors. It would be helpful to know the number, whether accommodations are for single women, single men, or couples. Also, it would be ***helpful to know if ambassadors are willing to share hotel accommodations, dietary preferences and any special needs.*** Unfortunately, cost has not been determined, but obviously two nights and three days of activities will be more costly than in-home hosting your members may be accustomed to

Please let me know ASAP if you are still interested in the trip, are willing to share hotel accommodations, dietary preferences and any special needs.

We will have to fill out forms but the club would like to know this now. Thanks!

Christine

What is Friendship Force

If you ever have been asked or were in a position to explain to your friends what Friendship Force is about, here as a brief explanation that was in the September issue of the International Friendship Force Newsletter.

Founded in 1977 by visionary Wayne Smith and supported by the late President Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, Friendship Force International is a non-profit cultural organization focused on promoting understanding, cultural education, and citizen diplomacy through homestay journeys and personal friendships. Through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends – and we know that by experiencing different views, you can discover common ground.

Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

Are you interested in being a Journey Coordinator ? It is a wonderful opportunity to be in contact with people all over the world. The board is considering different options for the Journey Coordinator position such as one person or a couple of people working together. And of course I will be glad to help. Don't be shy and talk to Stephanie or myself if interested.

NOVEMBER 18-24, 2025 - Outbound to Chiang Mai, Thailand - Patty Potter is the Ambassador Coordinator if you have questions, pat-tyspotter1001@gmail.com 319-551-5179. Mary Ann Nelson and Judy are planning an add on for 6 participants which will visit other parts of Thailand prior to the official journey. jjbm526@aol.com 319-540-1701 This is optional. Journey # 25038



FEB 22 - 27 2026 - OUTBOUND TO BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA -

Jerry and Carol Burke are the Ambassador Coordinators. Are you interested??? Contact Jerry and Carol 563-939-0190 jbcburke@yahoo.com Journey # 26188

MARCH 9TH-13TH 2026- SANDCRANE JOURNEY WITH NEBRASKA -

Christine Allen is the Ambassador Coordinator. Probably a small group. How about you? Interested contact Judy jjbm526@aol.com 319-540-1701.

JULY 13 - 18, 2026 - Quilting Journey—Curious, contact Patty Potter!

MAY 28 - JUNE 4TH 2026 - INCOMING FROM WESTERN WASHINGTON/NORTHERN IDAHO - Jerry and Carol

Burke will be the Ambassador Coordinators. Volunteer to help! jbcburke@yahoo.com



SEPTEMBER 7-12 2026 - OUTBOUND TO LIMA PERU - Christine Allen is the Ambassador Coordinator who is already busy negotiating plans. If interested contact Christine callenivy@gmail.com. 319-330-3536. Ad on options are being looked into. Journey #26068

OCTOBER 7 - 14, 2026 - INCOMING FROM UTAH - Looking for a Host Coordinator to lead and put together a planning committee. Contact Judy. Journey # 26135

TRAVEL SAFE!!!

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