



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

February 2026

Calendar of Events

- Feb 4** **LEO Lucky Penny in**
4:00 PM **Hyawatha**
- Feb 27** **Club Zoom Trivia**
7:00PM
- March 1** **World Friendship Day**
2:00PM **Marion Christan Church**
- March 9-13** **Nebraska Sandhill**
 Crane Journey
- April 6 - 11,** **Out Going Journey to**
2026 **Birmingham, Al**
- April 24-26** **North American**
2026 **Conference**
 Memphis TN
- May 28 -** **Incoming From West-**
June 4 **ern Washington/North**
 Idaho
- July 13-18,** **Quilting Journey**
2026
- August** **Club Day Trip**
TBD
- Aug 22-23** **Outgoing Journey to Pe-**
2026 **ru**
- Sept** **LEO**
TBD
- Oct 7-14,** **Incoming Journey from**
2026 **Utah**

President's Message

Welcome to February!

This is going to be a month of eating. First is our LEO on Wednesday February 4 at 4:30pm at Lucky Penny in Hiawatha. Then Valentines Day arrives February 14th and chocolate is always on the menu. When that is finished, prepare to eat on Mardi Gras which is February 17th. You will have two and a half weeks to rest and then we have a potluck to celebrate World Friendship day, March 1st at 2pm at Marion Christian Church. You can tell where my mind heads!

Stephanie

2026 CR/IC FF Club President



Leo Lucky Penny February 4

The club will be having a LEO on **February 4** at the **Lucky Penny** located at **1705 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, IA**. We will meet at **4:30 PM** There is ample parking and a nice menu. Hoping to see you there.



CONSIDER BEING THE JOURNEY COORDINATOR

We are still looking for a new Journey Coordinator– How about you?

Journey Coordinator Job Description:

1. Coordinate all incoming, outbound, mystery, Open World activities; This means finding Ambassador Coordinators/Host Ambassadors/Home Hosts and supporting them through journey planning and implementation
2. Actively seek out Journey opportunities by establishing contacts and communicating with clubs worldwide; This would include filling out matching requests for International, attending and networking at FF conferences, build relationships with other FF members across the world.
3. Follow the “FFI Journey Guidelines”; Inform Board and get approval when needed
4. Collect and present applications of Journey coordinators to the board.

If you are interested in finding out more about this, please contact Stephanie Schulte, Patty Potter, or Judy Frascht-Miner. There are many rewards with this position. Please consider.

Zoom Trivia February 27

The next Club Zoom trivia will be **February 27 at 7PM**. 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.



International World Friendship Day March 1st

You're Invited to Celebrate Friendship Force International's World Friendship Day



Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City will celebrate World Friendship Day

International themed potluck

Place: Marion Christian Church, 1050 McGowan Blvd, Marion, IA,

Date & Time: Sunday, March 1, 2 pm to 4pm

- ⇒ Enjoy an international potluck dinner.
- ⇒ **Bring a main dish and a side to share.**
- ⇒ **Table service & beverages provided.**
- ⇒ Meet club members and learn more about upcoming club activities
- ⇒ Meet local families/students with international backgrounds



The Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City is part of Friendship Force International, a global network of citizen ambassadors in 300 clubs who travel the world in the name of friendship and goodwill. Friendship Force International connects people with its mission to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. Through home-hosting and meaningful travel experiences, participants learn about other cultures, develop a better understanding of our world, and discover our shared humanity.

RSVP or More Information: Contact: Mary at mcdstull@aol.com

a world of friends is a world of peace

Membership Dues for 2026

Below is the information from the last newsletter on how to pay your Friendship Force dues.

Please make sure you pay your international dues of \$100 directly to FF International.

Jerry Burke has offered to assist anyone having problems getting into their portals. His correct phone number is 563-929-0190

The new fee for each club member will now be \$115 starting January 1. \$100 will be due directly to FFI, and \$15 to the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Club for local dues.

Please go ahead and send your \$15 local dues to Club Treasurer Tom Hess at 785 West Main Street, Robins IA 52328.

FF International dues are paid as follows:

1. Go to https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in
2. Either sign in or establish an account
3. Click on add/renew membership
4. Once paid with a credit card, you will receive an email confirmation.
5. Let Barb Steggall know that your dues have been paid, at bjsteggall@gmail.com

Please note you need to log into your FFI Portal after you pay your dues to make sure that indeed you are ACTIVE. Some people have received an email acknowledgement but on the site it still shows INACTIVE. On the bottom of the email acknowledgement is a place to send a note back to them saying that it shows INACTIVE.

CHANGED DATE Birmingham, April 6 - 11, 2026



We have **2-3 openings** for this journey. Birmingham, AL is located at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Birmingham was born out of the iron and steel industry. The city is well known for its role in the Civil Rights movement. Modern Birmingham is a much different place brimming with entertainment, the arts, outdoor recreation and world class cuisine.



It is home to art galleries, golf courses, antique shops, and trendy malls. There are many family green spaces such as Railroad Park. With a mild climate many suburbs surround the city giving the metropolitan area a population of approximately 1.2 million.



Friendship Force North American Regional Conference 2026 Memphis, USA

**Experience the spirit of Friendship Force in Memphis—
networking, discovery, and community at the
2026 Regional Conference.**

April 24 - 27, 2026 · Hyatt Centric Hotel

The registration for the North American Regional Conference is now open. **Open up your member's Portal to access the registration information.** There you will be able to see the agenda, speakers, hotel information and sign-up for the special excursions. Check with other club members to see about car pooling and possible room sharing. A riverboat cruise is offered at the conclusion of the conference. It looks to be a great event.



Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

MARCH 9TH-13TH 2026- SANDHILL CRANE JOURNEY WITH NEBRASKA

Christine Allen is the Ambassador Coordinator. It is limited to 10 and is presently full. There is a waiting list. Have Questions, contact Christine callenivy@gmail.com 319-330-3536 .



DATE CHANGE - APRIL 6-11, 2026 - OUTBOUND TO BIRMING-



HAM, ALABAMA Jerry and Carol Burke are the Ambassador Coordinators. **There are a couple of openings** and they are accepting applications now. Are you interested??? Contact Jerry and Carol 563-939-0190 jbcburke@yahoo.com Journey # 26188.

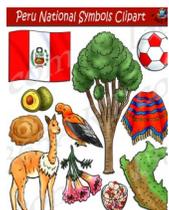
MAY 28 - JUNE 4TH 2026 - INCOMING FROM WESTERN WASHINGTON/

NORTHERN IDAHO - Jerry and Carol Burke are the Ambassador Coordinators. A committee has been formed and they are busy planning the itinerary. Contact Jerry and Carol if willing to be involved! jbcburke@yahoo.com



JULY 13 - 18 2026 - QUILTING JOURNEY - This is a Special/ Global Journey, which means it is posted on the International Website and is open to applicants from across the world. It will be exciting to see where our guest will be coming from. How about home hosting or driving? Curious, contact Patty Potter pattyspotter1001@gmail.com 319-551-5179.

DATE CHANGE - AUG 22/23 - AUG 28TH 2026 - OUTBOUND TO LIMA PERU -



The date was changed due to a conflict the Peru club has. Christine Allen is the Ambassador Coordinator who is already busy negotiating plans. It is full right now. Two add-ons are being planned with this journey, a boat trip down the amazon and a trip to Cusco. Everyone is excited. Any questions contact Christine callenivy@gmail.com. 319-330-3536. Journey #26068

3 **OCTOBER 7 - 14, 2026 - INCOMING FROM UTAH** - Nancy York and Tom Hess will be Host Coordinators putting together a planning committee. Contact Tom and Nancy. 319-929-8208 stampingnancy@gmail.com and 319-213-7762 tomhess8@gmail.com. Journey # 26135



2026 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Officers

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