**DIPLOMAT ORIENTATION PROGRAM**  
**APRIL 12-16, 2016**

**INFORMATION FOR HOST FAMILIES**

**PURPOSE OF VISIT**
The Diplomat Orientation Program – formerly known as the Policy Leaders Orientation Program – provides U.S.-based Chinese officials with a general introduction to United States history, politics, culture and society. The program does not focus on U.S.-China relations. Rather, it serves as a tool to deepen knowledge and understanding about America for Chinese officials who play a central role in our bilateral relationship. It also provides participants with a deeper, more hands-on understanding of America’s history and values and how these may shape U.S. policies and perspectives. Through briefings, site visits, and homestays, participants in the program examine the United States from a variety of perspectives while learning about key themes in American life and culture.

**SIZE AND COMPOSITION**
The delegation consists of 14 U.S.-based, mid-career officials from the Chinese embassy, consulates, and PRC Mission to the United Nations. All will have a working proficiency, or better, in English. The delegation will be accompanied by National Committee Program Officer Amy Saltzman, the primary contact for all inquiries about the delegation (asaltzman@ncuscr.org).

**PROGRAMMING AND SCHEDULING**
The itinerary includes visits to Williamsburg, VA; Washington, D.C.; Hershey and Harrisburg, PA; and New York, NY.

Guests will arrive in Washington at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12**, and depart at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 16**. Amy will escort participants to all daily programs. A schedule of meetings and activities will be circulated in the coming weeks. Generally, programs will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

On Friday, April 15, Amy will host a farewell banquet at 6:30 p.m. at a centrally-located Chinese restaurant (location to be determined), and hope all our host families will join.

**TRANSPORTATION**
We ask that host families pick up guests at **Union Station on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.** and show them how to get to and from the subway station closest to your home. Each morning, participants will be asked to meet at a specific Metro station near the first morning meeting location. Every afternoon, participants will be escorted to a Metro station located close to the final meeting venue. Host families have the option of showing their guest how to get to and from the day’s assembly points via the Metro or dropping-off/picking-up guests directly at assembly points. The National Committee has no preference between these options.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
While it is expected that accommodations for most guests will be simple, we request that each guest have his/her own bed. Rooms can be shared with other participants as long as there are multiple beds. While we prefer that everyone has a real bed, comfortable pull-out couches are okay. Guests should not be housed in public areas of the home.
CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES
Common sense and courtesy are key ingredients in dealing with any foreign group, and the Chinese are no exception. Chinese can be sensitive about the correct reference to their country. Please keep in mind that the proper reference is China, People’s Republic of China, the PRC, or the Mainland.

According to Chinese usage, the family name precedes the given name. For example, President Xi Jinping is addressed as “President Xi.” The Chinese do not mind answering personal questions about their family or work. They expect to shake hands; other forms of touching, such as handholding or a slap on the back, are common between members of the same sex but generally avoided between men and women. Please do not hesitate to contact Amy if you have any questions.

FOOD AND DRINK
Chinese diplomats are usually pretty cosmopolitan these days, but many of them still have some general food preferences. On the whole, they prefer meat cooked well done, and they like it with gravy, but usually do not like cream sauces. Poultry, fish, and seafood (particularly shrimp) are also popular.

The use of cream sauces and heavy amounts of butter should be avoided. Noodles or rice (plain or with gravy is best) are welcome accompaniments, and Chinese will generally consume at least twice as much of these two grains as the average American. Vegetables, again without cream or butter, are always welcome. All kinds of soups, especially rice, noodle, and vegetable varieties, are very popular.

While most Chinese have an aversion to cheese, many of them do like yogurt, a few drink milk (especially hot milk or cocoa at breakfast), and almost all love ice cream. Another favorite is fruit, fresh or in compotes.

Tea (green or black), soft drinks, and fruit juices are favorite beverages and many Chinese now drink coffee; but few like iced drinks. Some may enjoy beer or wine at dinner.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON U.S. – CHINA RELATIONS
The National Committee on United States-China Relations promotes understanding and cooperation between the United States and Greater China in the belief that sound and productive Sino-American relations serve vital American and world interests. We create opportunities for informed discussion and reasoned debate about issues of common interest and concern to the United States, the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong SAR, and Taiwan. Our programs draw participants from the private and public sectors, and currently focus on politics and security, education, legal reform, governance and civil society, economic development, the media, and transnational issues such as the environment and public health. We carry out our mission via conferences and forums, professional exchanges and collaborative projects, public education programs, internships, publications and a website.

Established in 1966 as an independent, non-partisan, non-profit educational organization, we have over four decades of experience developing innovative programs at the forefront of U.S.-China relations. Our distinguished board of directors, and individual and corporate members from around the United States, represent many points of view but share the conviction that increased public knowledge, face-to-face communication, and the forthright exchange of ideas are essential for healthy Sino-American relations.

Our work is made possible by grants from foundations, the United States government (currently the Departments of State and Education), and contributions from corporate sponsors and individuals. The National Committee on United States-China Relations is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Thank you for your generous offer of home hospitality for our delegation members!

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS
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