



Hong Xian Bian (2003 participant, South Korea)



Students registering for China Summer 2003

Organizational Introductions

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), an independent Quaker organization, was founded in 1917. Today it carries on programs in 22 foreign countries and 43 places in the United States. In 1947, the AFSC and Friends Service of Britain together received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Society of Friends.

Website: www.afsc.org

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

China Summer began as a project of Westfield (NJ) Monthly Meeting. It is supported by the Friends Workcamp Program of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). PYM serves Quaker Meetings in the greater Philadelphia region. Website: www.pym.org

The High Bridge School for Girls

The school began as a joint project between retired workers and rural residents in 1998. With the support of previous China Summer workcamp participants, a century-old schoolhouse and surrounding facilities and grounds were restored. In 2003, the school was formally established in order to provide inexpensive technical education and training to rural young women after graduation from middle school.

China Summer

中国夏日

Friends International Workcamp



Caitlin Hopping and Huang Sijing, 2003 China Summer participants.

The China Summer Workcamp has provided educational opportunities for middle-school students, especially girls, and environmental protection education for the local community in a small village in rural Hunan province since 2001.

Every summer, young people from China, the United States, South Korea, and other countries volunteer to teach over 150 rural Chinese students for three weeks.

Participants also tour Beijing, visit cities and towns in Hunan, and stay overnight with a Chinese family. By combining cooperative work, study, and travel in both urban and rural China, this unique program offers an invaluable opportunity to be a part of the dynamic changes underway in China today.

Working: Alongside their students, participants will participate in field projects aimed at promoting environmental protection in the local community. All participants will have daily cleaning tasks, which will be overseen by workcamp committees.

Studying: Participants will give presentations and take part in group discussions on social issues related to the workcamp. In small groups, participants will undertake field research and write brief reports on a topic that they choose.

Meeting: Participants will join a workcamp committee, which will meet regularly to manage daily issues.

Teaching: Participants will teach at least two classes a day based on their skills and expertise. US participants will focus on English language instruction.

Classes will have approximately 20-30 students, ranging from ages 13-18. The English level of students is extremely limited, so non-Chinese speaking participants will have to be creative in class content and presentation. Experienced workcamp staff will guide and support all teachers.

China Summer was established by Wu Na and James Reilly, East Asia Representatives for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).



Julie Walz and Sokki Chen,

Concerned about the tendency of rural girls to drop out of school after middle school, and interested in promoting environmentally-sustainable development in rural China, they worked together with local residents, government officials, and the High Bridge School for Girls to start the China Summer Workcamp.



Ni Yuehao and student, China Summer 2003

China Summer Goals

- Provide educational opportunities to local students, particularly girls and strengthen environmental awareness.
- Build friendship and understanding among young people from around the world.
- Foster youth leadership through practical experience in a challenging environment.



The High Bridge School for Girls

The workcamp takes place at the High Bridge School for Girls in Xiaoshicun (Small Stone Village), in southeastern Hunan province. Participants will live together in a pressed-earth century old schoolhouse in single-sex rooms (7-8 people in a room).

Participants will eat together in the school's cafeteria. All produce and meats come from the local community, and so are based on seasonable availability. We will eat exclusively Chinese food. Vegetarian options will be available. All water comes from the school's well, which is boiled for drinking.

Participants can take hot showers daily, but these will be kept short to conserve water. The school has two washing machines. The school uses environmentally sound composting toilets.

The weather is extremely hot and humid. Dormitory rooms have screen doors and windows, and electric ceiling fans. The opportunity for a mid-day nap is provided. E-mail is available.

Workcamp Schedule

July 26 - August 22

- July 26 Fly from US to Beijing, tour Beijing
- July 29 Train to Hunan Province
- July 30 Bus to workcamp site.
- August 21 Train to Beijing
- August 22 Fly back to US

Participants will tour historic sites and visit Chinese organizations in Beijing for three days. The workcamp itself starts with a two-day orientation. During the workcamp, there will be regular days-off when participants will visit nearby towns, tour a local market, take nature hikes, and have an overnight homestay with city families. The workcamp concludes with a graduation ceremony for all students.

Applying to China Summer:

US Participant fees of \$2,200 cover all expenses except personal incidentals. Scholarship funds may be available. Please inquire for details.

For application materials, please contact:

Arin Ahlum Hanson, PYM Workcamp Coordinator. Phone: (215) 241-7236. E-mail: arinh@pym.org. Or contact Adam Clark-Valle at ChinaWorkcamp@pym.org

All individuals not living in the US should contact Jamie Reilly and Wu Na for fees and application information: eaqiar@aol.com

Please visit the workcamp website:

www.pym.org/workcamp/Pages/china.htm