

Sponsor briefing May 22!

Spring & summer events

News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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President's Message

Dear GKCPTP members,



Spring has arrived, but the sunny days of summer are on the way, which also means the CGSC class of 2019 is preparing for departure and the class of 2020 will soon arrive. I know next month will be an emotional roller coaster ride. There will be tears in the eyes of departing families and excitement among the new arrivals. I call it celebrations of the joy of international friendship. We should nourish those friendships so they last forever.

The badge ceremony for the class of 2019 is June 13, 2019. It's a very important event for the sponsors and the international military students. These are the moments of pride for the officers, and they will remember those who were with them during those moments. I request all sponsors attend in the badge ceremony and cherish those memorable moments.

The incoming class is also a big one, with 114 international military students from 90 countries. The list is not final yet, but I hope it will be before our annual Sponsor Briefing on May 22, 2019. The GKCPTP military committee has been working on the sponsor assignments, and by the time you will be reading this newsletter, most probably you will have your IMS assigned.

Some questions you will begin to hear from the outgoing officers include:

- How soon should I sell my car?
- How many bags can I take as checked in luggage?
- How will I get all this stuff to the airport?

Experienced sponsors have heard all these questions before. Valid questions, except for the vehicle, IMSD will have most of the information available at the appropriate time for the class of 2019.

I would also like to update you about some changes in our board. Our long-time treasurer, Charles Jasper, has resigned due to personal reasons, but he will continue as a chapter member and as a sponsor. I want to thank him for his volunteer service to the board. We will miss him on the board but continue to enjoy his company in the chapter.

Our long-time chapter member Marti Wilson is our new elected treasurer and board member. Marti and her family have been sponsoring for 10 years with GKCPTP, and she has been serving as treasurer for the Ethnic Enrichment Commission Greater Kansas City. I want to welcome Marti to our board and would like to thank her for volunteering for our treasurer post.

I would like to inform all the chapter members that GKCPTP is now a member of the International Relations Council ([IRC](#)). This makes all our members automatically IRC members as well, so they can enjoy all the benefits IRC offers its members.

One more thing I want to share with you, I had a great meeting with the PTPI CEO Merrill Eisenhower Atwater and Senior Vice President Mathew Goddard at PTPI World Headquarters. We discussed how to promote the vision and mission of President Eisenhower at the local and international level. Mr. Atwater expressed his thanks to all chapter members and sponsors for their volunteer work with People to People and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC).

We hope this year of sponsorship has been as rewarding to you as it is for our family. And I hope new sponsors have a great experience with their international military students and families.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (or any board member). We are proud of your service.

Zahid Awan
President
Board of Directors
Greater Kansas City People to People Chapter.
Cell: 816-838-2926

PS: New chapter members offer an infusion of new ideas and energy to our organization; and I love their courage to give us their valuable time. I would like to thank and welcome our 2019 new chapter members:

Bruce Bratman	Major Jeff and Meghan Larkin
Michael and Julie Falkner	Charles Lenoir
Angelo Fiataruolo and Family	Ann Miller
Jeff and Deb Hall	David and April Nanos
Larry and Debbie Hedenkamp	Brian and Fiona Neilson
Marcela Holder and Family	Umer Saeed and Nadia Nazir
Willis Jackson, Jr. and Family	Mike and Tamara Sevcik
Clint Kajinami	Gary and Diana Street
Wasim and Andrea Khan	Zita Surprenant and Family
Jeremy King and Emily Hsu	Michael and Megan Wizniak
Tab and Maxine Hunter	

Sponsor Briefing Reminder: Wednesday May 22 @ Sylvester Powell Community Center



Members/sponsors, new and otherwise, as well as prospective members/ sponsors are invited to attend the next sponsor briefing, held at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, KS.

Please make every effort to attend as there will be important information about sponsoring presented by the Fort and the GKCTP chapter. We will provide sponsor packets (sponsor assignments from other organizations, sponsor guides, culture grams, etc.) at the briefing.

The session is intended not only for new and current sponsors, but is also for any chapter member and guest who has an interest in the program. We especially welcome more seasoned sponsors because we count on you to be a resource to help “show new sponsors the ropes,” so that they may become more quickly acclimated to the program.

Please RSVP by 5/16 to Jane Kohl at jkid96@msn.com or phone at **816.289.6358** with the number that will be attending. We need to have a good head count for the facility and

to provide adequate refreshments.

SPONSOR BRIEFING

Wednesday, May 22, 2018

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sylvester Powell Community Center

North entrance

6200 Martway St

Mission, KS 66202

Appetizers and beverages will be provided

Please try to attend, even if you've been before. You'll learn something new, meet your fellow sponsors and help the chapter save postage since your packet will be there for you to take home.

Sponsor Appreciation Friday, May 31

This ceremony recognizes the efforts over the past year of sponsors from the three sponsor groups and their support of international military students. If you are a current sponsor, you should have received an invitation from the Fort via U.S. mail. If you have been previously contacted about eligibility for a sponsor anniversary award, please plan to attend to receive your award. Questions? Contact Sharon Valášek by [email](#), or phone: 816-213-5847.

Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

7:00 p.m.

Calendar

You can also [download a PDF.](#)

Date	Event	Place	Time
May 22	Sponsor Briefing	Sylvester Powell Community Center	6:00 p.m.
May 31	Sponsor Appreciation Ceremony & Reception	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
June 3+	Class of 2020 begins to arrive	-	-
June 4	Ramadan Ends	-	-
June 13	Badge Ceremony Class of 2019	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBD
July 9, 10, 16, or 17	Icebreakers w/ officers/families	Frontier Conference Center, Ft Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
Aug 5	Flag Ceremony: Classes Begin	Fort Leavenworth	TBD
Oct 6	Day at Deanna Rose Farmstead	Overland Park, KS	TBD

Get or Update LAC Cards for Base Access

Local Access Cards (LACs) are your way onto Fort Leavenworth for events and officer visits (should your officer live on post). They provide both the Fort and our members a measure of security, albeit with a degree of inconvenience in the initial application and retrieval of the card(s) in person. We appreciate that our sponsors understand the need for security at U.S. military bases.

Order of the "LAC Process"

Please note the order, or sequence of events occurring when applying for and receiving your local area access card (LAC).

1. Fill out LAC application form (you complete the "applicant" part only).
2. Send the completed LAC forms to [Pat Burnett](#) or Sharon Valášek by [email](#), fax or US Mail.
3. Pat or Sharon will acknowledge receipt.
4. Pat or Sharon will contact sponsor(s) when we have been notified by IMSD that the application is ready. Do not call the Visitor's Control Center (VCC) before you receive notification from Pat or Sharon that your application is ready for pick up. Calling the VCC before being notified by Pat or Sharon can cause confusion (VCC may say they don't have the application when, in fact, it is with someone else (e.g., IMSD) integral to the process. When VCC says they don't have it, it causes sponsors to believe their application hasn't been submitted).

5. Once notified by Pat or Sharon that the LAC is ready for pick up, call the VCC. **(Before sponsors drive to Fort Leavenworth have them call the VCC at 913-684-3600 to make sure the system that issues the pass is working. If sponsors have any problems while there, call Mike Brettmann's personal cell at 913-724-2864.)**
6. Pick up pass within 30 days of approval date. **(Approved applications are valid for and must be picked up within 30 days, otherwise the process starts over -- requiring a new app to be submitted).** A rule introduced earlier in 2018 from the VCC states that sponsors are allowed to apply only 3 times, so please don't let your approval expire.

Badge Ceremony Thursday, June 13

The Badge Ceremony begins at **0900 (9:00 a.m.)**. Before the ceremony the Fort will let us know if there will be a shuttle service within the base for the ceremony. If you do not have an LAC ID card, please allow plenty of time to go to the Visitors Control Center (VCC) to get a day pass.



At the completion of the academic year, the international military students (IMS) receive the International Officer Graduate Badge in a formal ceremony. This distinctive badge identifies the IMS as a CGSOC graduate. The IMS receives a full-size and a miniature badge at the ceremony. The IMS graduates may wear these distinctive badges subject to the uniform regulations of their country. A brief reception usually follows outside the auditorium.

**Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
0900 (9:00 a.m.)**

Graduation Friday June 14

This event will also begin at 0900 (9:00 a.m.) We encourage the sponsors to attend the Badge Ceremony and not the graduation because of the focus of the events.

**Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
0900 (9:00 a.m.)**

Officer Arrivals June 3+



Officers begin to arrive for the 2020 CGSC class around June 3. Many will fly into KCI, some will drive in from a neighboring country or a US locality (many drive in from the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, TX). Be sure to contact the officer beforehand by email and/or phone; and plan to meet the officer and family at the airport. Alternatively, be sure to meet within a couple days if the officer is arriving by car.

And do touch base with the other sponsors; it's particularly important to have someone meet the officers at the airport.

Ramadan 2019: May 5 to June 4

The holy month of Ramadan is celebrated by Muslims around the world, including many of our international military students. During this time, Muslims focus on fasting, prayer and family. They start the day with a meal before sunrise and break their daylong fast after sunset. The evening meal is often a social and spiritual gathering for worshippers. Overall, Ramadan is a time for Muslims to exercise self-discipline and restraint both spiritually and physically. Please be aware of these practices with your officer and family.

Registration Day for Officers: July 2

FYI. Registration Day is an event for officers and their families. It is not a sponsor event. Each officer/family will receive a packet of materials from GKCTP and a People to People handle bag. The packet includes a welcome letter, a U.S. flag and Greater KC, Kansas and Missouri reference and tourist/travel information items.

Icebreakers with International Military Students/Families in July

Each sponsor will receive a mailed invitation from the Fort with the specific date of their icebreaker. **Please remember to RSVP for this event, whether you will or will not attend.**

Dates: July 9, 10, 16, or 17 (check your invitation)

Time for all: from 18:00 to 21:00 (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.)

Place: Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth

Aug 5 Flag Ceremony Begins School Year



The Flag Ceremony will be held **Monday August 5** at a time to be determined. No RSVP is required, but plan to arrive early.

Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Deanna Rose "Day at the Farmstead" Sunday Oct. 6

Save the Date!

This annual event in Overland Park, Kansas allows all sponsor groups and international military students (and families) to enjoy a day at this 1900s turn-of-the-century American farm. Save the date, details will be provided in a future email.



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