

News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



Sponsoring Member Update:

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A Message from the Chapter President

Dear GKCPTP members:



I hope you and your loved ones are doing well. The pandemic of COVID-19 seems to be getting worse in some states as time is passing by. Let's pray for the safety of our nation and the newly arrived international military students.

As you know the officers you are sponsoring have already arrived at Fort Leavenworth. They are completing their mandatory 14-day quarantine period and it will be over soon. I spoke with a couple of officers and their emotions are mixed. They are

anxiously waiting to meet with their sponsors, see their classmates and drive around the city. They are going through a very tough time, living alone, without their families and not knowing anyone around them. Muslim officers spent their Eid Al Adha by themselves away from their families and friends. This Eid, called Eid A Adha 'Feast of the Sacrifice', is the last of the two Islamic holidays celebrated worldwide each year and considered the holier of the two. It honors the willingness of Prophet Abraham to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God's command.

I believe you are also as excited as the officers are to meet. This year our job as sponsors brings additional challenges due to the pandemic. Please keep in mind that we all volunteer to serve this country in the best possible way as citizen ambassadors. I ask each sponsor to make an earnest effort to make their officer's time at CGSC as positive an experience as possible during these unusual circumstances we're living in. See below in this communication for additional sponsor-related information from our Military Committee.

We hope the past year of sponsorship has been as rewarding to you as it was 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.

Be safe and follow the best practices for prevention as provided by the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

P.S. I also want to thank you for contributing to the retirement gift of Mike Brettmann. We collected six hundred fifty dollars. We presented him a visa gift card and a plaque at our Annual Sponsors Briefing. Mike wrote a beautiful thank you note to the members of GKCPTP.

Dear GKCPTP,

Thank you again for the beautiful retirement gift and gift card. It was unexpected but greatly appreciated. Catherine and I hope to co-sponsor with many of you in the coming years,

*Sincerely,
Mike*

Best regards,

Zahid Awan
President
Board of Directors
Greater Kansas City People to People International
Cell: 816-838-2926
Email: prez@gkcptp.org

Initial Contact with Your Class of 2021 Student

We have an update from Jim Fain:

- Coordinated physical contact between sponsors and international military students is permitted beginning the morning of **August 8** (except the IMS from Canada - who is quarantined due to late arrival through the morning of August 14).
- **IMPORTANT:** Please first ask your student if he or she has anything already scheduled, especially with IMSD (International Military Student Division). For example, it is very important for many students to complete the English Comprehension Level (ECL) program. The best approach is to explicitly ask the student to ensure they don't have anything scheduled. We cannot afford to have IMS miss something, and when we track them down have them say, "Well, my sponsor wanted to take me to do X,Y or Z and I didn't want to miss that opportunity."

Contact Sharon Valášek at 816-213-5847 or svalasek01@gmail.com with questions.

Thank You for Care Packages!

International military students were overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity of sponsors in regard to care packages delivered to the Fort. And we at IMSD appreciate the sponsors following our delivery instructions.

Status of Dependents

We had previously communicated that a decision would be made on dependents that might accompany students. Jim Fain strongly recommends the continued deferral of dependents until pandemic-related conditions improve. For officers that accept the risk and decide to bring dependents, the attached describes the conditions they must accept. See the attached PDF "[Guidance on International Military Student Accompaniment](#)", which explains the Army's position, requirements and concerns in regard to accompaniment.

Timeline for IMS Class of 2021

Summer/Fall 2020

[Download of Timeline PDF here](#)

Date	Event or Activity	Place
July 24	IMS report to Fort (Arrivals)	Fort Leavenworth
Jul 24 – Aug 7	Quarantine	IHG/Hoge Barracks
Aug 8	English language test (those scoring < 80 will be discharged from program)	Fort Leavenworth
Aug 8-13	Community Integration – This is the time officers need the most sponsor help to get settled and acclimated	Greater Kansas City, Leavenworth, Lansing etc. areas
Aug 14	Tour of Kansas City by IMSD	Greater Kansas City
Aug 17-21, 24	Prep course work	Fort Leavenworth
Aug 25-27	Field studies program activities	Fort Leavenworth
Aug 31 – Sept 4	Standardized testing, final prep, flag ceremony rehearsal	Fort Leavenworth
Sept 8	Flag ceremony, coursework begins	Fort Leavenworth