

Cultural Fair

Event Guide



Why

To help everyone become familiar with the mission work that is being done by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and other church bodies in fellowship with the WELS.

When

It is strongly recommended that a school Cultural Fair accompany a corresponding Church Mission Festival to get all members involved. Mission speakers are available to preach at worship services and present on their mission field in place of normal Bible study. To request a mission speaker, visit wels.net/speaker-request.

Who

It is suggested that this be a family project – one project per household, no matter how many children they have in school. This will allow the parents and children learn together about the mission work happening around the world.

How

Event Organizer – Tips and Tricks:

- Have students bring their display boards to school at least a week before the event – set up the displays the Friday before.
- Put together a well thought out packet for families to follow.
- Provide plenty of websites for them to refer to (see Resource List below)
- Encourage the use of Mission Kits from the WELS Missions office
- Provide enough time for families to complete the project – 2 months minimum
- Provide help to the families – Purchasing tri-fold display boards and selling them at cost is one way. That way, all displays would be the same size and shape.
- Encourage congregation involvement - invite members to the event
- Create homemade “passports” for the kids to use as they walk around from display to display – include custom flag stickers with each display that kids can use to show they stopped at the booth.
- If you decide to do a potluck along with the event, provide hot dogs and sloppy joe sandwiches for those adults and kids who might be a little shy at trying the foreign food dishes
- Budget some money to purchase decorations like flags and banners. Oriental Trading Co. and Amazon are great resources. Flags can be used for table decorations as well as banners.

Picking A Country to Represent:

Sign Up Genius forms are a free, easy way to let your school families pick which countries they want to create displays for: www.signupgenius.com. Set a deadline for when families need to choose a country. (suggested – minimum 2 months before the fair). Limit how many families can sign up for each country (2), to ensure a variety of representation.

Recent [Home and World Missions Maps](#) shows where WELS does current mission work, is exploring mission work opportunities, or is in fellowship with a church body through the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).

Cultural Fair Potluck:

A potluck meal is a great way to encourage people from the congregation to attend the Cultural Fair after church services, as well as show students the diversity of foods from different countries. Along with their display, it is encouraged that all families bring a dish to pass from their respective country:

- Bring 1 or 2 dishes of food
- Select a type of food that is distinctly from your country. Example: Sauerbraten = Germany, Khasi ko Maasu = Nepal, Swedish Meatballs = Sweden
- Prepare enough of the dish for people to have a taste. A recipe that makes 6-8 servings will go a long way in tasting portions
- Properly display the name of the food, major ingredients and the country it's from
- Include copies of the recipe at your display in case people would like to take one home to try

Sample Card to Include with Dish:

Name of Food:

Origin (Country):

Basic Ingredients:

Interesting Fact about the Dish:

Sample Display Guidelines:

- Design and assemble everything on a tri-fold display board
- Be creative:
 - Create eye catching titles
 - Choose a colorful background
 - Use colorful pictures
 - Try to limit the number of fonts you use on your display
 - Make the display your own
- Require the following items on the display board:
 - Name of the country you have chosen
 - Map
 - A picture of the flag
 - Information about WELS/CELC mission work
 - 7-10 interesting statistics
 - List several interesting/unique things to see or visit using pictures and descriptions
- Request a Mission Kit (if available) to enhance your display at <https://wels.net/missionkits>.
- Some World Mission fields will have more information publicly available than others because of security concerns in that country. If you are having trouble finding mission information online, feel free to email missionspromotions@wels.net.

Resources:

1. WELS Missions Webpage
www.wels.net/missions
2. WELS Missions Resource Center (Fact Sheets, PowerPoints, Pictures etc.)
<https://missions.welsrc.net/>
3. Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) Website
www.celc.info

4. WELS Mission Kit Reservations:
<https://wels.net/missionkits>
5. CIA World Fact book
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>
6. Comprehensive Research Website by Country:
<http://www.countryreports.org/>
7. Google Translate - Translate some interesting phrases or words
http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en
8. Artifacts from the country
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/index.html>
9. Make a table showing comparisons to statistics in the United States
<http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>
10. Popular recipes from around the world
<http://allrecipes.com/recipes/86/world-cuisine/>
11. Travel Guides by Country
<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/>
12. Traditional Dress Around the World
<https://www.roughguides.com/gallery/traditional-dress/>
13. National Geographic Map Maker
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/mapping/outline-map/>
14. Science Kids – Fun Facts by Country
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/countries.html>
15. BBC News – Country Profiles
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
16. World Health Organization
<http://www.who.int/countries/en/>
17. US Department of State - Facts Sheets on Countries around the World
<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>
18. Sample form to help organize your research:
<https://www.uplifteducation.org/cms/lib/TX01001293/Centricity/Domain/173/International%20Festival%20Packet.pdf>

For more information...

All recommendations in this event guide are merely suggestions – feel free to add, subtract, or modify to best fit your school. For any questions or concerns or to contribute further ideas, please email the Missions Promotions office at missionspromotions@wels.net or call 414-256-3237.

Cultural Fair - Original idea developed by Mr. Peter Lemke, St. John's Lutheran School in Jefferson, WI