

February | 2024

Upcoming Events

- **Selection interviews for 2024 programs:** Saturday, January 27, chapter member's home in Exton
- **February chapter mtg:** Thursday, Feb 1, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fugett M.S., West Chester
- **Mosaic project with West Chester Food Cupboard:** Saturday, Feb 24, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
[Preregistration required by Feb 17]
- **March chapter mtg (JB elections!):** Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fugett M.S., West Chester
- **April chapter mtg:** Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fugett M.S., West Chester
- **May chapter mtg:** Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fugett M.S., West Chester

(See our full calendar

2024 CMC: "There's no place like BV!"

Our annual chapter mini-camp (CMC) was scheduled for the weekend of January 19–21, but wintry weather (and dicey road conditions) forced us to delay the start of camp by half a day. Instead of starting on Friday evening and ending early on Sunday, our journey down the yellow brick road to the land of Oz began instead on Saturday and went into Sunday afternoon.



The cold and the snow may have shuffled our usual schedule around a bit, but they couldn't keep the fun away. The participants brought a ton of CISV energy and enthusiasms to CMC!

Thanks to the JB board for planning the great activities, to the chaperones, and to the adult board members who handled the camp logistics!



February Mosaic Project

Mosaic is CISV's local community-based program. Through Mosaic projects, chapters use CISV's education approach to respond to local needs in cooperation with local partner organizations.

Our chapter will be running another Mosaic project in partnership with the West Chester Food Cupboard



[here.](#))

Connect with us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/CISVBV>

JB recruitment campaign

Anyone who brings a new person to a JB meeting or event will get a prize! (Just let Marsha know!)

CISV is a volunteer-driven organization.

Without the involvement of our chapter families and friends, CISV travel programs, chapter meetings, and other activities would not be possible.

If CISV is important to your family, please consider getting involved in our chapter!

We are always in need of volunteers (no contribution is too small!), so [contact us](#) to find out how you can help!

CISV Thrifted is our JB-led effort to raise funds for program scholarships. Check out our gently used and vintage CISV merch from around the world!

on Saturday, February 24, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. We will tour WCFC's new expanded space, learn about how they address food insecurity, and help with tasks such as stocking shelves. Participation is limited to ten people; preference will be given to those who have yet participated in a Mosaic activity at WCFC.

Preregistration is required. Please sign up [here](#) by February 17.

CISV Outreach



Thanks to the BV members who ran our three "CISV 101" information sessions at various locations this fall and winter. If you'd like to host one of these sessions yourself, [let us know!](#) We have a PowerPoint presentation you can use, and you can schedule the session for any location/date/time that works for you! (Note that these sessions aren't limited to fall/winter but can be done

at any time of year.)

We also had a table at the annual CCIU Summer Camp Fair in January, which was a great opportunity to connect with families who are specifically looking for interesting programs for their kids. If you know of an event where we could set up our table/booth and share information about CISV, [let us know!](#)



We are always looking for help in getting the word out about CISV!

2024 Travel Programs

We have a few open spots, so we have extended our application deadline. If you're interested in participating in one of these programs, let us know ASAP!



BV is hosting two programs this summer, and we'll soon be reaching out to our members to ask for your help. Mark your calendars now!

- Passport Village day camp, 6/17 to 6/21, Exton
- Youth Meeting, 6/22 to 7/6, Chester Springs area



VILLAGE: MEXICO (GUADALAJARA), 7/5 to 8/1
(Must turn 11 on or in the 12 months before 8/31)



YOUTH MEETING: location/dates TBD
We anticipate getting a YM invitation in early February
(Must turn 12 or 13 on or in the 12 months before 8/31)

STEP UP 14: DENMARK (ROSKILDE), 7/12 to 8/3
(Must turn 12 or 13 on or in the 12 months before 8/31)



FORTNIGHT: NEW YORK (USA), 7/13 to 7/27
(Must be 16 or 17 for the entire duration of the program)

Member Profile: Matt Pushinsky

I first learned about CISV when I was 10 years old, after my best friend (who is a year older) went to Sweden for Village. He told me how quickly and completely he bonded with people from all around the world, and I knew I had to have the same experience.



I joined CISV Pittsburgh chapter and was selected to be part of the 1994 Village delegation at Lena Olympic Camp in Norway. As promised, it was life changing. Going to Village at age 11 is the single most impactful experience of my childhood. From the day my first child was born, I couldn't wait for them to reach the age where they could also participate in CISV.

Currently, I am a member of the adult board and am slowly taking on the role of risk manager, where I hope to unobtrusively ensure a safe experience for campers, leaders, and staff.

My favorite aspect of CISV is the opportunities it provides for kids to learn through peer groups who have had completely different cultural and life experiences. By immersing kids in such a diverse pool of equals, CISV breaks down stereotypes and other biases that form early in life.

People of all ages can benefit by becoming part of this tight-knit community. Children will thrive while embracing the idea of peace through understanding, and adults will find the volunteer work fulfilling and rewarding.

We started the January meeting with the Pada energizer, then asked everyone to share their name, age, pronouns, and favorite celebrity. (The theme for this meeting was "Dress as your favorite celebrity.") We then talked about CMC (which was the weekend after this meeting), announced the Passport Village JCs and staff, and announced that CISV Thrifted is now on eBay!



For the activity, the JBers were split into groups and told that they were all citizens trying to get to the polls in order to vote for the next president. They had to go to different stations in order to get to the polls.

At the first station, each group had to play charades and guess correctly in order to advance. When they then went to the voting station, they were told that they were not registered and were sent to another station to get registered. At that station they were told that had to go to another station to get their ID. Once they got their ID and were finally registered to vote, they were then sent to the wrong polling location. When they finally arrived at the correct polling location, they were told that the polls were closed for the day.

During the debrief, we discussed the hardships that go into voting and what other factors can prevent people from being able to vote. We also discussed whether it's important to vote.

—report by Katie M., JB board secretary

For JB-specific news and updates, be sure to follow [the BV JB account on Instagram!](#)

CISV is a worldwide, nonreligious, nonpolitical, nonprofit organization that enables participants age 10+ to build global friendships through local chapter meetings and international and domestic camps.



CISV USA
Brandywine Valley
Building global friendship

CISV Brandywine Valley | 1050 Airport Rd., #5021, West Chester, PA 19380-9998

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