Peace is possible only as individuals and groups learn to live as friends with one another.
Dr. Doris T. Allen, American psychologist and founder of CISV

Here in this village you may see
Children living happily
Different race and different land
Here we come to understand ...
CISV song since 1951

Peace through friendship.
CISV is a charitable volunteer organization, ideologically independent and with no political or religious orientation.
What is a Village?
The CISV Village is a camp-based programme for 11-year-olds from around the world. Each Village welcomes delegations from 10–12 countries. The children spend four weeks together – living, playing, having fun and making friends. The official camp language is English.

What is the idea of a Village?
Children bridge cultures during their time together and start to think about socially relevant topics. By making friends from around the world, children develop an understanding for other cultures and break down prejudices.

How is a Village set up?
Most of the camps take place during summer vacation. Participants travel to the Village as part of a delegation from their home Chapter. Each delegation consists of two boys and two girls, accompanied by an adult leader who speaks their native language.

The children spend their first days in the host country in selected CISV families. A second family weekend takes place midway through the Village. They spend the rest of their time living together at the ‘campsite’.

How do we prepare the children for their experience?
Each delegation undergoes intensive preparation. The children and the leader get to know each other in two-day minicamps and in several family meetings. By the time they leave for the Village, they are familiar with CISV songs and games and look forward to the experience.

Does my child have to speak English well?
No. Each child speaks as well as he or she can. Many games and activities during the Village are also non-verbal. Still, language skills improve incidentally throughout the programme.
What role do parents have?
Parents support the delegation during preparation by planning gifts for the host families or helping with the delegation’s presentation of their home country at the Village. CISV works on a voluntary basis, and parents therefore have to help out. You can be involved in the implementation of a CISV programme in your own Chapter, e.g. by taking in children on family weekends, by helping with the organisation or by offering to drive on arrival and departure.

What’s included in the price?
Preparation and follow-up weekends (in the home country), four weeks of accommodation and meals in the camp, a CISV camp T-shirt, excursions, travel costs and insurance, and a contribution towards the leader’s travel expenses.

What other costs are there?
Pocket money, gifts for the host families, goodies to swap in the camp, and perhaps a ‘national costume’. 
Build personalities.
CISV turns young people into active global citizens.

Create intercultural competence.
CISV uses games and experiential learning to build understanding across cultures.

Discover similarities.
CISV encourages participants to appreciate what really matters.

Promote respect and tolerance.
CISV enables meeting as equals in age-appropriate programmes.

Take responsibility.
CISV motivates each individual to take on a leadership role.

Start early.
CISV begins educating children for peace from the age of eleven.

Grow and go beyond.
CISV inspires people to carry their skills and knowledge into the wider world.

CISV organizes local and international camps, exchanges and community activities, with more than 10,000 participants every year. CISV is active in 68 countries worldwide.

CISV. Building global friendship.
Where to find us globally
www.cisv.org/our-world

Where to find us in Germany
Berlin - Brandenburg I Darmstadt I Hanover I Hamburg I Kiel
Cologne I Lörrach I Lüneburg I Mainz - Wiesbaden I Munich

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