



17th ANNUAL

HAVERTOWN HAWKS—VIKINGIT

Exchange Program

March 19–28, 2016



Skatium Ice Rink

Havertown, Pennsylvania

United States of America

WELCOME

Dear Friends and Family,

Yes I did say family because I know from previous experience that we will all become family by the end of this exchange, joining those Hawks and Viiknigit families who have already had the opportunity to participate in this exchange previously.

On behalf of the Haverford Hawks, I want to extend to you a very warm welcome and truly hope that you enjoy your stay with us here in the United States. We have a wonderful country for you to explore and although it is way to big to accomplish in ten short days, we will share with you our city, the City of Philadelphia, where are forefathers wrote the Declaration of Independence, thereby declaring our independence from England and creating the United States of America. We will also be traveling to New York, where you can experience a city unlike any other, with its fast pace, bustling streets and many, many attractions.

Many people were involved to make this Exchange the best it can be and I would like to take a moment to thank all of those from the Haverford Hawks who worked so hard and served on the different committees. I also want to thank my counterpart from the Viiknigit, Harri Kairento for all of his help in bringing this to fruition.

Lastly, we are so happy you are here and if there is anything we can do to make your stay any better, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Hawks families or myself.

Regards,

Chas McGarvey

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Finland Exchange Chair

The Viikingit-Hawks Cultural Exchange History

The seeds for the Viikingit/Hawks Cultural Exchange were sown during Christmas break in 1998. Pertti Rinta-Panttila and his family had just moved to the Philadelphia area from Helsinki, Finland. His son Antti played for the Haverford Hawks Pee Wee B team. Over the break, the Rinta-Panttila family hosted one of Antti's friends from Finland, who played hockey in a school tournament along with several Hawks players. While watching the tournament, Hawks parent John Wert and Pertti wondered what it would be like to have Antti's entire former team, the Vikings from Helsinki, come to the U.S. to play in the Hawks' annual season-ending tournament.

What seemed an unlikely event turned into a tradition: Just a couple of months later, the Viikingit team traveled to the U.S., and had such a good time that they invited the Hawks teams to join them in Helsinki the next year. The Viikingit/Hawks Cultural Exchange had begun!

Over the last seventeen years, Exchange coordinators have applied a formula that incorporates the different organizational structures of hockey in the U.S. and Finland. First, Haverford Hawks players at the Pee Wee age level host the corresponding players from the Viikingit club for a little over a week in the spring. The next spring, players from the Hawks Bantam teams have the opportunity to travel to Finland. On their visits, the players not only learn and practice each other's languages, they also experience the cultures of each other's countries. They learn the differences in hockey rules and styles between Europe and America. Most important, the Exchange has resulted in lasting friendships among Finnish and American families.

Thanks to the Viikingit/Hawks Cultural Exchange Program, hundreds of Hawks and Viikingit players and their families have experienced a unique cultural and educational opportunity. With hockey as its impetus and friendship as its goal, the Viikingit/Hawks Cultural Exchange Program is proud to continue in Havertown, Pennsylvania for its seventeenth year.

DAILY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 19.3.2016

- 16:55** Arrival to the USA on Finn Air Flight AY 005.
- 18:00** Transfer from JFK Airport to busses for ride to Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia, PA.
- Two Busses, duration approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours
 - Chas McGarvey and others to meet Players and Parents
- 21:00** Arrival at Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia, PA.
- 21:30** Parents check in to Crowne Plaza Hotel and Players leave with Host families.

SUNDAY, 20.3.2016

- 08:40 - 09:40** Full ice practice for Viikingit Pitbulls.
- 09:50 - 10:50** Full ice practice for Viikingit Wolves.
- 11:00 - 12:00** Full ice practice for Viikingit Stallions.
- 14:30** Welcome Event held at Sky Zone, 122 Mill Road, Unit B-250, Oaks PA 19456.
- Parents take vans, duration approximately 20 minutes.
- 18:00** Host Family Dinners (This is an approximate time).

DAILY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, 21.3.2016

- 06:30** Leave Crowne Plaza Hotel for New York Trip.
- 09:00** Arrive NYC - 45th Street Pier.
- 10:00** NY Water Taxi Departure. Lower Manhattan Tour-
Statue of Liberty
- 12:00** Arrive South Street Seaport (Short Photo-op, Brooklyn
Bridge)
- 12:45** Bus Departure for NHL Store (47th Street and Sixth Ave-
nue)
- 14:00** Lunch at Ellen's (Broadway and 51st Street-Times Square)
- 15:30** Broadway Walk of Times Square
- M&M Store
 - Toys R Us Ferris Wheel
 - ESPN Zone
 - Macy's
 - Empire State Building - 34th and 5th Avenues
- *** 90 Minutes to 2 hours to complete*****
- 17:30** Meet buses at new York Public Library (5th Avenue
between 41st and 42nd Streets.)
- 17:45** Depart for Brooklyn-Barclay's Center (Flyers islanders
Game)
- 18:45** Arrive Barclay's Center for game.
- 19:00** Islanders—Flyers Puck drop.
- 22:00** Leave game for Crowne Plaza Hotel
- 23:45** Arrive at Hotel - Player Pick-up.

DAILY SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, 22.3.2016

***** Free Day for Shopping at King of Prussia Mall*****

- 17:15-18:30** Practice for Viikingit Pitbulls and Hawks B Teams. (Possible friendly scrimmage)
- 18:45-20:00** Practice for Viikingit Wolves and Hawks A Teams. (Possible friendly scrimmage)
- 20:15-21:30** Practice for Viikingit Stallions and Hawks AA Teams. (Possible friendly scrimmage)

DAILY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, 23.3.2016

- 08:00** Viikingit parents leave hotel and drive vans to Skatium.
- 09:00** Leave Skatium for Philadelphia Sightseeing Trip
- 09:30** Arrive at Franklin Institute
- 12:00** Lunch at Franklin Institute (Poor Richards catering)
- 12:45** Philadelphia Art Museum
- 13:30** Independence Mall—Liberty Bell, Gift Shop
- 15:00** Constitution Center
- 15:30** Depart Philadelphia for Skatium
- 16:00** Arrive at Skatium
- 16:45-18:00** Practice for Viikingit Pitbulls and Hawks B Teams.
- 18:15-19:30** Practice for Viikingit Wolves and Hawks B Teams.
- 19:45-21:00** Practice for Viikingit Stallions and Hawks B Teams.

*** (Viikingit Teams will have dinner in the snack bar when they return from Philadelphia. Viikingit Pitbulls will eat after their practice.)

Host Families will pick up players after practices and Finnish Parents will return to Hotel in King of Prussia.

DAILY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 24.3.2016

09:45 Shopping trip to Hockey Giant Department Store.
(This store sells all kinds of hockey equipment)

16:00 Tournament Begins

FRIDAY, 25.3.2016

07:00-21:50 Tournament—Day 2 games begin (10 games)

SATURDAY, 26.3.2016

07:00 Tournament - Two round robin games (7:00 AM) and 3 championship games (1:00, 2:40 and 4:30pm)
Ends 6:20 PM)

19:30-23:00 Farewell Banquet - Anthony's Restaurant in Springfield from 7:30 PM – 11:00 PM)

DAILY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, 27.3.2016

FREE DAY - Easter Sunday. Spend with Host Families or on your own if you prefer.

MONDAY, 28.3.2016

10:00 Departure from hotel to JFK Airport in New York.

- Two Busses, duration approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours
- One bus to stop at Penn Station for drop off.

12:30 Transfer from busses to JFK Airport

13:00 Check-in for Finn Air Flight AY 005, departure at 17:40.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!