Francophone Areas To Exchange Summer Hospitality

The last week in June has been circled on calendars in many homes throughout Louisiana. During that week, 300 Louisianians will travel to Belgium, France and Quebec to participate in various programs sponsored jointly by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), the State Department of Education and the governments of the host countries.

Participants include university and high school students as well as French teachers, all interested in improving their French-language skills and learning about the cultures of francophone countries.

Forty-two Louisiana university students will attend classes in Angers, Montpellier, France. High school students will participate in various programs with 60 to study in Charlesbourg, Quebec; 20 sports-minded youngsters to spend a month with French teenagers in a camp on the Mediterranean; and 62 high school students to spend four weeks living with French-speaking host families in Belgium, France and Quebec.

Some 110 elementary and secondary teachers of French will participate in intensive language and culture courses in Angers, Vincy and Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium and Quebec City, Canada.

Louisiana will reciprocate with programs for French-speaking visitors. One hundred English teachers from Quebec will be enrolled at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge during July for a pedagogical and intensive English seminar.

Louisiana families will share their homes with 60 francophone students, ages 16 to 19, who will come to Louisiana this summer from Belgium, France and Quebec.

Belgian exchange students from the town of Woluwe St-Pierre plan to stay in New Iberia or the surrounding area, since their town has been officially twinned with New Iberia.

The host families for the students need not plan special activities for student guests, since the students are interested in experiencing the everyday life of this area.

Anyone interested in hosting an exchange student should contact Nita Whitmore at CODOFIL, P.O. Box 1936, Lafayette, 70502, phone (318) 233-1020.