



Seattle 98118

Journey to the most diverse zip code in the United States

September 24, 2011



How much do you know about the international residents who share this city with us?

We readily hop in airplanes and fly thousands of miles to discover the world's cultural treasures. Yet within 30 minutes of most Seattleites'

doorsteps exists a uniquely diverse place, where 59 languages are spoken, dozens of religions are practiced, and the smells wafting from kitchens represent the cuisines of many nations.

Welcome to the 98118 zip code, comprised of Seattle's Rainier Valley and Columbia City neighborhoods, which has been cited by the U.S. Census as the most diverse zip code in the country.

Crooked Trails and Horn of Africa Services have teamed up around a shared vision of exchange and community building. Together we will host the 98118 Program, a cross-cultural journey connecting Seattle residents with immigrants and refugees from Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia to meet, share and learn.

We will dance Somali style, learn new words in each others languages, prepare Ethiopian *injera* bread, work together on service projects such as repairing bikes for local residents, and much more. The experience will culminate with an inspiring concert to unite all the cultures represented and to celebrate the lasting relationships being forged. The program is built on the belief that everyone benefits from the opportunity to connect and share with neighbors, and to learn a bit about yourself and the world in the process.

98118 will start as a day-program in the summer of 2011, with the commitment to build a long-term, sustainable program connecting communities for mutually beneficial partnerships. It is a perfect extension to both Horn of Africa Services' work building support networks for African refugees in Seattle as well as Crooked Trails' mission to help people broaden their understanding of the planet and its diverse cultures. Let's put the adage "think globally, act locally" into action! Join us a founding member of this united community.



Who We Are

Crooked Trails is a non-profit community-based travel organization helping people broaden their understanding of the planet and its diverse cultures through education, community development and responsible travel. Horn of Africa Services (HOAS) is a multi-lingual, multicultural nonprofit organization offering individual and family counseling and referral services.

Costs

The cost of the full-day 98118 program is **\$150**. One free child admission (age 14 and under) included with one paying adult.

Registration must be made in advance at <http://www.Seattle98118.eventbrite.com>

98118 Itinerary

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A note: All of our itineraries are flexible. Our philosophy at Crooked Trails is to let the destination guide our experiences and not to live by a strict itinerary. If unexpected events arise, we may change plans to take advantage of the situation or deal with an issue. However, we will do all we can to offer you everything that is on the schedule. Please be flexible yourself and allow the program to unfold.

9:00 am: ARRIVAL

Participants arrive at the New Holly Community Center for registration and a general introduction to the program. Participants are introduced to their host families and head out to their homes with guides.

9:30 am – 12:00 pm: HOME VISITS

Participants spend time with host families, getting to know the story of who they are and understanding what their life and culture is like. On-site activities will give everyone a chance to further connect and learn from each other. Enjoy lunch in the families' homes.

1:30pm – 4:30pm: GROUP ACTIVITIES

Returning to the New Holly Center, participants may sign up for a variety of participatory activities including: cultural dance classes, cooking classes focused on international cuisines, arts and crafts, soccer games for young and old, and a volunteer project helping to repair bicycles for the community. The classes will be taught by refugee families from a variety of different cultures including Ethiopian, Somalian and Eritrean.

4:30 pm: BREAK

Break and free time to explore booths and sign up for continued volunteering opportunities.

5:00pm – 6:00pm: DINNER

Enjoy a buffet-style dinner with the host community

6:00pm – 8:00pm: CONCERT

Everyone is treated to an international music concert featuring Refugee All Stars!

8:00pm: WRAP-UP

Final thanks as we wrap-up an exciting day and head home.