



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

2021 Better Understanding for a Better World

February 3 - 7, 2021

Orlando, Florida

Co-Sponsor: Al Bir Islamic Association



What: 2021 Better Understanding for a Better World

When: February 3 - 7, 2021

Where: Disney's All-Star Sports Resort *(tbc)*

Who: CECF (<http://cecf-net.org/>) and the following participating institutions:

- Al Bir Islamic Association
- Congregation Ohev Shalom
- Church of the Holy Redeemer *(tbc)*

CECF is offering its 36th annual conference in Orlando, FL to American high school students and ECA grant exchange students studying in the U.S. under the auspices of the State Department's exchange programs.

Overview:

Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW) began in 2006 with an annual conference in Orlando, FL. In 2008, CECF expanded this unique opportunity and included an annual conference in Baltimore, MD. After two more thriving years of BUBW Conferences in both Orlando and Baltimore, CECF expanded once more to include an annual BUBW Conference in San Diego, CA in 2010. These conferences were developed to give American high school students and international exchange students currently studying in the U.S. the opportunity to meet students of diverse faiths and cultural backgrounds. They have been tremendously successful each year and the students benefit in ways that are truly impressive.

Youth are the hope of each nation, and the future of the world's civilization is soon to rest in their hands. The most pressing issue they face today is how to view the **"other"**, people who are different from you. CECF's focus is to transcend the fear of the **"other"** through multicultural and interfaith dialogue and mutual respect and understanding.

Conference Vision / Mission / Objectives:

- Facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation between students from diverse regional, economic, social, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- Discuss stereotypes about the **"other"** and their impact
- Learn about and discuss the practice of religion and faith in a pluralistic society with the objective of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and an awareness of common values
- Introduce various aspects of leadership, including those involving business and entrepreneurship
- Forge ties of friendship between American high school students and students from around the world

While the focus of the conference is principally on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, participation is open to students of all faiths, as well as those who may not be active in any faith tradition.

Follow up after the Conference:

Students will be encouraged to maintain contact with each other and make a presentation at their schools or at their community centers on the issues discussed throughout the conference.

American and Exchange Student Participants and Selection:

American and International high school students are encouraged to attend. International exchange students represent the following programs sponsored by the Department of State: Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) and other exchange programs. Exchange students will be selected by their sponsoring organizations and American students will be recommended by a staff member of their respective high schools or community / youth group leaders.

Brief Conference Outline

Wednesday, February 3: (Arrival, Dinner Social, Ice Breaking Games and Orientation)

➤ **Students should plan to arrive to the MCO Airport between 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm.**

Thursday, February 4: (Focus on Diversity, Cultural Understanding & Leadership)

- Main address and Interactive Discussion about “The World Today: The Family of Adam and Eve,” elaborating on the need for “Crossing the Divide.”
- An *International Youth Summit (IYS)* to discuss the importance of:
 - developing an atmosphere of belonging
 - cultural understanding, sensitivity and respect
 - problems youth face around the world and ways to resolve these conflicts
- Workshop on “Leadership and the Importance of Youth Involvement”
- **Breakout sessions and group discussions** identifying problems facing the youth of today and ideas /activities for better cooperation on a personal, local and global level
- Becoming a Global Citizen, an experiential program conducted by Walt Disney World Resort staff *(tbc)*: Discover, explore, and learn to recognize how various aspects of culture are impacted by changes in technology, commerce, communication, and people
- Evening recreational time in Disney’s Epcot Theme Park

Friday, February 5: (Interfaith Visits and Panel Discussion)

- Visit local places of worship like a mosque, synagogue, and church. Students will experience firsthand similarities and differences within the house of Abraham.
- The visits will be followed by a panel discussion with the religious leaders involved in the day’s program.
- Evening recreational time in one of Disney’s Theme Parks

Saturday, February 6: (Rejoicing as One)

- Recreational time in one of Disney’s Theme Parks
- Banquet, Student Presentations and Certificate Ceremony in the evening with a focus on “The American Experience: Learning about Each Other and Respecting Our Cultural Differences.”

Sunday, February 7: (Wrap Up & Departure)

➤ **Departure - Students should schedule their departing flights from MCO Airport between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

Conference Price Includes

- Conference Registration
- Lodging at **Disney’s All-Star Sports Resort** *(tbc)* - 4 nights
- Conference Meals beginning with dinner on Wednesday, February 3rd through breakfast Sunday, February 7th
- Admission to The Walt Disney World Theme Parks
- Walt Disney World Youth Education Series Program on February 4th - *(tbc)*
- International Youth Summit (IYS) on February 4th
- Interfaith Program & Panel Discussion on February 5th
- Banquet & Certificates Ceremony on February 6th
- Transportation throughout the program, including from the Orlando International Airport (MCO) on Wednesday, February 3rd to the hotel and back to the Orlando International Airport (MCO) on Sunday, February 7th

**If you have questions about the conference, please contact
Kim at cecf1@aol.com or call 202-230-3984.**