



J-1 Exchange Visitor Program

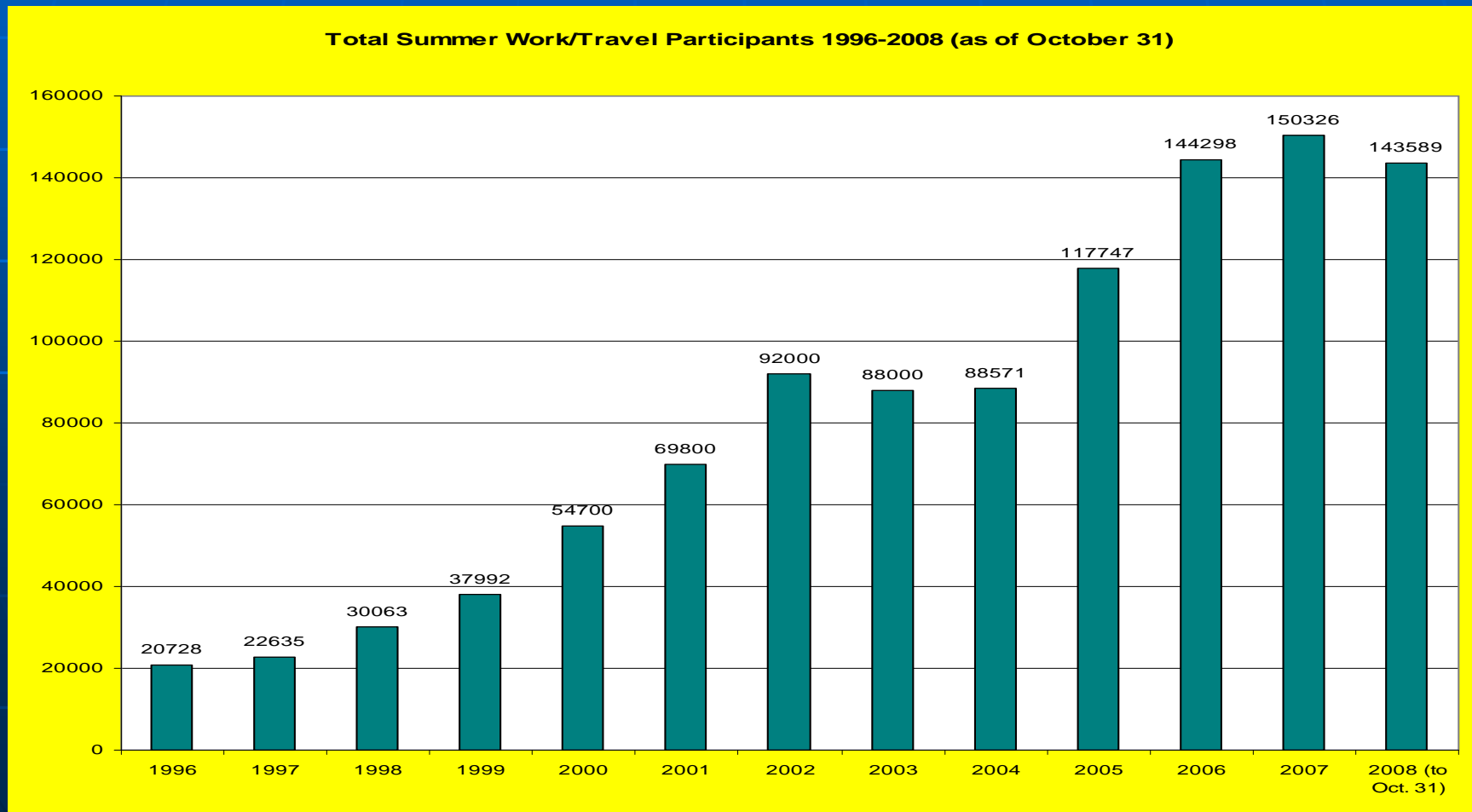
Summer Work Travel (SWT)

SWT SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

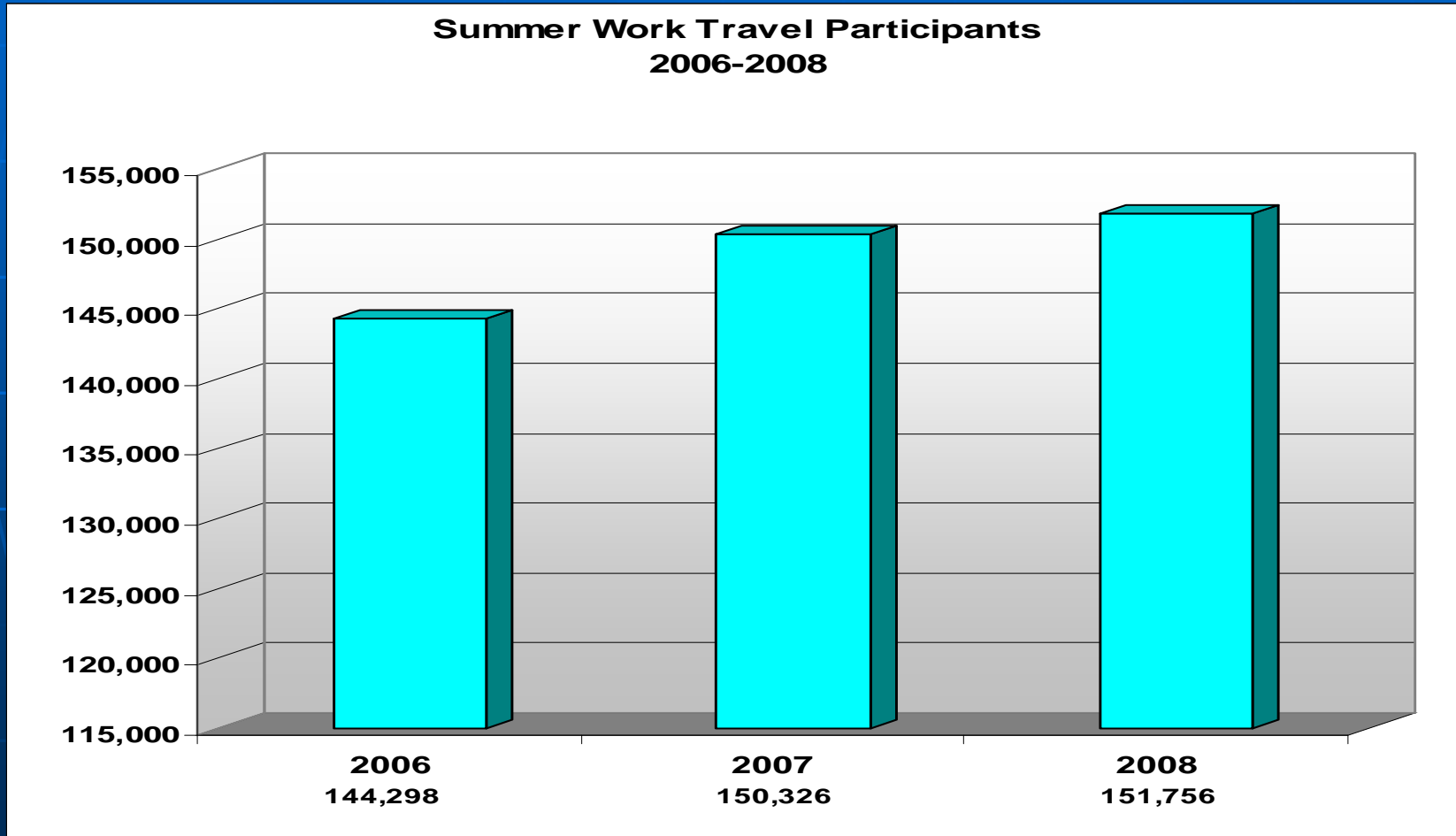
- 56 ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNATED
- The 2008 Top Ten Top Countries of SWT Participants
 - RUSSIA
 - BRAZIL
 - TURKEY
 - UKRAINE
 - THAILAND
 - IRELAND
 - BULGARIA
 - PERU
 - MOLDOVA
 - POLAND

SWT Statistics (1996 – October 2008)

- The total number of Exchange Visitors who entered the United States to participate in the Summer Work Travel program from 1996 – October 2008 as follows:



Summer Work Travel Participants



Community Outreach Events

- Began in 2006 in Ocean City, MD
- Business community became concern of the hundreds of SWT participants being sponsored without a secured job
- Formed a Quality of Life Task Force
- Attendees at these meetings, bank personnel law enforcement, SSA, IRS, Dept. of Labor, DoS, hospital personnel, employees, Members of the Chamber of Commerce, representatives from various religious organizations, etc.
- Community involvement (meeting SWT participants at the bus stop, church dinners, socials to get to know the community, bike safety programs, housing initiatives, provided them with detail info about the community)

Benefits to Sponsors to Attend Community Meetings

- Educates the community and employers of the role that SWT sponsors' play and about specific program requirements.
- Promote the positives of the program and forms a partnership with the community
- Encourage good practices (transportation, bike safety, housing, etc.)
- Encourage future public support on regulatory issues that affect the program.

Inquiries and Concerns about the SWT Program

- Local recruiters oversold the program
- Economic conditions may have meant that jobs were hard to come by and the jobs available might not have been as nice or as lucrative as anticipated.
- Participants placed in unsafe neighborhood
- Sponsors not reacting in a timely manner to the complaints or difficulties
- Sponsors not answering their phone calls

Inquiries and Concerns about the SWT Program

- Paid for direct placement and have no job and running out of money
- Work hours reduced significantly
- Paying more than what was quoted for housing.
- Adequate housing not provided
- Overcrowded housing

Inquiries and Concerns about the SWT Program (Cont'd)

- Transportation Costly or not provided
- Contract not clear
- Employer pays sponsor and sponsor takes out a portion of that money before paying participant.

Presentation by Dave Causer, President of Global Educational Concepts

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
TO ENHANCE THE STUDENT'S
2009 SUMMER

Presentation by Alliance Abroad
Group, Lauren Stone and CCI,
Daniel Ebert

Five Chilean SWT Students
Shot (Two Fatal) in Destin,
Florida

Question

- Question: What exactly is State's guideline about how long a participant can be without work? Is it ok if a participant never works? We have always taken the stance that this visa is about the work more than the travel. Is that correct? Is there a formula for how long participants can be without work?
- Answer: The summer work travel program provides foreign post-secondary students the opportunity to work and travel in the United States for a four month period during their summer vacations. To permit this activity, the program authorizes them to work to ensure that they have sufficient funds to pay for food and housing while in the United States. It is expected that students who participate in this program come to the U.S. to work. The regulations are silent with regard to the amount of time to be spent working vs. the amount of time spent traveling. There is no formula for how long participants can be without work. If a student only wants to travel in the United States the 4-month summer work travel program is not the appropriate category. The student needs to apply for a (B-2) tourist visa.

Question

- Question: Given the concern about trafficking, will State issue more types of jobs that participants are prohibited from doing? We have “adult entertainment” jobs on our sponsor list of prohibited jobs but having State add it would strengthen our individual rules.
- Answer: An exchange visitor’s participation is subject to termination when he or she engages in unauthorized employment.....[22 CFR 62.40(b)] Unauthorized employment means any employment not properly authorized by you or by the Attorney General, i.e., the Immigration and Naturalization Service, prior to commencement of employment. In addition, the Department of State may impose sanctions against a sponsor upon a finding by its Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation (Office) that the sponsor has otherwise conducted its program in such a way to undermine the foreign policy objectives of the United States, compromise the national security interests of the United States, or bring the Department or Exchange Visitor Program into notoriety or disrepute. (22 CFR 62.40(a)(b)). Therefore, participants cannot be placed into any position that might bring the Department of State into notoriety or disrepute. This information should be conveyed to all participants prior to entry to the United States.

Question

- Question: Final year students – any chance they could be allowed to stay for four full months?
- Answer: A foreign student can apply to participant in the Summer Work Travel program during his/her final year and participate in the program during the summer following graduation. The return date would, however, must be the same as a current student which is based on the start date of their home institution.

Question

- Question: When will the audit requirement go into effect?
- Answer: We are still developing and finalizing the audit templates. When completed we will let the sponsor community know in advance when they are ready to be implemented.

Termination of SWT Participant

- Termination may have an adverse or negative affect on the EV's record. Exchange visitors who are terminated, are expected to leave the United States immediately. A termination status may jeopardize an exchange visitor's opportunity to re-enter the United States. Therefore before an exchange visitor's record is terminated careful consideration should be given to see if there is an alternative solution to the issue before a sponsor terminates an exchange visitor's status. The impact of a termination of an exchange visitor's record should be addressed in a sponsor's pre-arrival and orientation materials.

Termination of SWT Participant

- Termination reasons are as follows:
- Conviction of a crime
- Disciplinary action
- Engaging in unauthorized employment
- Failure to pursue EV program activities
- Failure to submit change of current address within 10 days
- Failure to maintain a full-time course of study (22 CFR 62.45(d)(6), Reinstatement to Valid Program Status)
- Failure to maintain health insurance
- Involuntary suspension

Termination of SWT Participant

- This guidance can be found in the “User Manual for Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor Users (RO/ARO) of SEVIS Version 5.8: Volume II Form DS-2019” dated April 18, 2008” which is available from our website at <http://exchanges.state.gov/jexchanges>

- Website:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/jexchanges>

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