



The Concept

The mission of The Friendship Caravan is twofold:

- To stimulate grass roots people-to-people friendship, through events designed to attract local, national, and international media attention.
- To instill positive, optimistic feelings into this period of fear and uncertainty.

Our premier event is the creation of a year-long camel and horse caravan across the United States, with musical festivities, educational programs, and specially-conceived cultural exhibits about the Arab and Muslim world. The Caravaneers will come from diverse backgrounds representing a variety of cultures and religions.

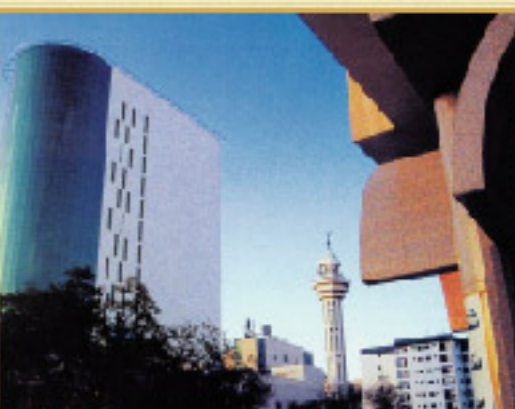
This healing pilgrimage will be an itinerant forum of ideas, spirituality, and cultural exchange to promote better understanding among Americans, Europeans, Arabs and Muslims. Moreover, our emphasis on outreach to children creates the basis for long-lasting attitude change.



The Friendship Caravan is programmed to start in Fall 2003, symbolically proposing a time of renewal after two years of international trauma.

Why The Friendship Caravan?

This is a time in history where attitudes of one people towards another will affect the very future of the world as we know it. On all sides we see a hardening of emotions, and the long-standing friendship between Americans and people of the Arab and Islamic World seems to fade behind a wall of fear.



To counter this situation fresh approaches are necessary to generate more positive feelings. Employing the time-honored icon of a slowly-advancing caravan, we will create goodwill all across America.

Like a clothesline spanning a continent, we will offer exciting activities produced jointly with other organizations. The Internet will be our forum for international exchange, and the media will attract millions of children and adults.



With universal themes like music, fun and adventure, The Friendship Caravan has the potential to generate loving feelings that are the basis for good relations with other cultures.



Caravan Details

Itinerary:

After a Friendship Festival in an Arab nation, the caravan starts in Los Angeles, then heads eastward into Heartland America and onto the East Coast, concluding with a memorial at Ground Zero.

Caravan Makeup:

Six Permanent Caravaneers, scores of Guest Caravaneers (5-8 Guests at all times), 2 animal handlers, 10 dromedary camels, 6 Arabian horses, two trucks carrying walk-in exhibits and satellite transmission equipment. Half of the Caravaneers will come from the West, half from the Muslim world outside America. At least one will be Arab American, one will be Jewish, and half will be women.

-*Permanent Caravaneers* will be on the caravan from start to finish.

-*Guest Caravaneers* from around the world -- schoolchildren, university students and professors, celebrities, media representatives, religious leaders, local dignitaries etc. -- will join the Caravan for periods ranging from a day to several weeks.

Activities:

Town meetings, in-school visits, encounters among children of different cultures (in person and via teleconference), Internet outreach, major musical events, arts exchange, prayer gatherings, conferences with local media, meetings with political and spiritual leaders, and the creation of World Day 2003 to kick off the Caravan.

Media Coverage:

The activities of the Friendship Caravan will be covered extensively in the written press, and broadcast on local, national, and worldwide TV and radio, and wrapped up with a filmed documentary for syndication purposes.

