

Russ Hedge
President & CEO
Hostelling International USA

Russ Hedge is President and CEO of Hostelling International USA, a nonprofit that promotes cross- cultural exchange through a network of hostels and facilitated programs for travelers and community members in the United States. HI USA's widely recognized sustainability commitment extends to its buildings, its programs and its people.

Russ also serves on the Affiliate Board of Directors of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, and on the Management Board of the World Youth and Student Educational Travel Confederation, a global not-for-profit dedicated to promoting and developing opportunities for young travelers, and the youth, student and educational travel industry that serves them.

Russ's professional training is in economics and finance, a career which he happily abandoned after an extended backpack trip to Europe where he discovered hostels and the power of travel to promote understanding among people and cultures.