In Tennessee, 18 businesses reported a total loss of $12,133,000, averaging $674,056 per business.
- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IMPACT -

Lack of J-1 Visa Exchange Visitors hamstrings U.S. public diplomacy goals by taking away a key positive U.S. experience from tomorrow's international leaders, and preventing them from engaging with their American host communities.

Host employers across America agree or strongly agree that Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor participants:

- **95%**
  
  Enable U.S. based staff to gain a better understanding of other cultures

- **97%**
  
  Contribute to a positive culture in the workplace

- **92%**
  
  Make the community more sensitive to other cultures

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“The staffing shortage led to customer perceptions that we do not want to take care of them. Inflated wait times. Staff turnover of U.S. based employees. Burnout and frustration.”

- **Restaurant in Pigeon Forge, TN**

“International participants help to grow our economy and educate our local community by bringing multicultural awareness.”

- **Retail Store in Gatlinburg, TN**

“Lost hours due to closing earlier because I didn't have staff to cover. No way to truly calculate all revenue lost.”

- **Retail Store in Gatlinburg, TN**

“Program participants expand our knowledge of various cultures and provide lasting friendships for our employees.”

- **Hotel in Gatlinburg, TN**

“Lost hours due to closing earlier because I didn't have staff to cover. No way to truly calculate all revenue lost.”

- **Retail Store in Gatlinburg, TN**

“We have made life long friendships with many of the BridgeUSA students, many of whom have gone on to be business owners, doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.”

- **Restaurant in Gatlinburg, TN**

“We are closed one day a week at all stores. We can not open for lunch at my 2 steakhouses. We had to cut breakfast entirely (all 7 days) at 2 concepts. ETC ETC.”

- **Restaurant in Sevierville, TN**

“You can't put a number on the number of phone calls missed! Or lack of service during this craze!”

- **Hotel in Gatlinburg, TN**

“The lack of staff has hurt the entire industry tremendously. There is really no way of knowing just how bad we have been hurt financially.”

- **Restaurant in Gatlinburg, TN**