

Why Host a student from abroad?

Hosting a student from another country can be an enriching cultural experience for everyone involved. It gives the student an incredible opportunity to visit the United States, learn about the American culture and improve their English skills. Hosting gives the family the opportunity to bring another culture into their home, share their own culture, and teach their student about American customs and holiday. Hosting is a learning experience for everyone and can result in memories and international friendships that last a lifetime!

What are the advantages of hosting a student?

Being a host family is a wonderful experience. It's a great way to learn about another culture and language from the comfort of your own home. Being a host family is a great experience for young children to look at the world from a new perspective. Host families contribute to the understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures. The students and families establish life-long friendships. These friendships that are particularly special in so many ways over the years. Hosting a family gives you the opportunity to teach and honor tolerance, acceptance, generosity, and hospitality to a child of another country and to your own children.

How long do we host?

28 days / 4 weeks during our July or August Sessions. 8 week host family opportunities are also available. If you have always wanted to host but have been reluctant to commit for an entire school year, this shorter experience may be a great opportunity for your family.

What are the students' goals?

The students hope to be an active member of their host family's daily routine whatever it may be for your family! They look forward to being appreciative & helpful guests while improving their English, learning more about the American culture and creating life-long international friendships.

Are the students prepared for the trip away from home?

The students are carefully selected based on strong personal references, personal preparedness, English level, and capability of being excellent International Friendship ambassadors. They partake in pre-trip preparation meetings and classes before arriving with their Travel Monitors. They come fully prepared for their International Friendship immersion experience. They know that they are expected to be an active member of your family. Each student has comprehensive travel, medical, and liability insurance, along with all necessary legal documents.

What does hosting cost?

Hosting costs only room and board for the student during their visit. The student is treated as a member of the family, participating in daily family life and routines. Each student comes with personal spending money to cover normal teenage activities, such as gifts, movies, phone calls, ice cream shops...

Host families are expected to provide a clean living environment, proper nourishment and love to their new member! Following U.S. Department of State regulations, host families are not paid, but they do enjoy a special, international friendship & learning experience.

What if we don't have a spare bedroom?

The student can share a bedroom with one of his/her American siblings of the same gender and around the same age. They will only need to have space for their belongings and their own bed.

What if the family does not have an extra bed for the student?

The student can share a room with a child of the same gender, but must have his or her own bed. The room for the student must be in a non-communal area (a room with a door, not a family room). If there are no extra beds, perhaps the host sibling would be willing to give up his or her bed and sleep on an air mattress so that a foreign student could still visit.

What if the host child works?

Many American teenagers work and may not be home all the time. You can make arrangements for someone else to be around— another sibling, a friend, a family member. While some downtime is OK, students should not be left alone regularly, as it leads to being homesick.

What if my family does not have children around the same age as the student?

The students are very excited about meeting someone in your country around the same age. However, it depends on the host family and the student. Sometimes there are students that actually prefer to be with a family with younger children. A question to ask a family without teenagers is if they know of neighbors, cousins, etc. that would be interested in spending time with their student. A family with no children at home, hosting an Adult Family Program participant or one of our Travel Monitors works well.

Who supervises the program?

The International Friendship travel monitors and host family coordinators will be in touch with all families and students during each hosting session. Weekly check-ins are a requirement for all students and host families. We are available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week to help in any way possible during the international friendship & learning experience.

What if any problems arise during the stay?

The host family needs to alert the program coordinators about any problem as soon as possible and in the moment. The program coordinators are available at any time (24/7) to address and solve any situations. They will have our contact information and telephone numbers. Thankfully, there aren't usually any problems, but the family needs to know that we are there as a support network for anything that arises.

Thinking of hosting more than one student?

We all greatly appreciate the family's generosity, but the program only allows one student per host family. This is important for both the host family and student. Two students in the same family are more apt to speak in their native language. One of the main purposes of the student's participation is to practice and improve their English skills. Also, the students then rely more on each other and less on the family. Limiting their full integration potential with the family.

What information will be provided?

Once you have been accepted as a host family you can help in choosing the student that would be ideal for your family. Next, you will receive your new friend's student profile and you can start being in touch before his/her arrival. You will receive the student's personal & contact information, itinerary with local arrival & departure, insurance information and all necessary legal documents. You will receive a host family guidebook with helpful information and ideas and emails from the Lead and Local Host Family Coordinator as arrival day approaches and during the hosting sessions

How do we apply?

Please contact us today! We will go over any questions you may have and support your family through our application process and home visit.

Contact information:

Krissa, Director: Tel. (608) 212-0590, email: krissa@InternationalFriendship.com

Brandi, Lead Coordinator: Tel. (608) 347-4637, email: brandi@InternationalFriendship.com

Thank you for your time and kindness in helping make these beautiful international friendship experiences possible by considering hosting & sharing the opportunity.