



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL HOST FAMILY?

COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY HOST FAMILIES

The most important quality for a Host Family is the ability to make an outsider feel like a member of your own family. Host Families are committed to a mutual exchange of cultural experiences. Our priority is to ensure the quality of the experience between student and family. Families are welcome with or without children at home. Homes headed by a single parent are considered. Oakbrook seeks homes that generate warmth and friendliness while possessing a reasonable degree of stability.

DO HOST FAMILIES RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR HOSTING?

Host Families are volunteers, but they do receive a monthly stipend from to help defray the cost of food and other expenses. International students bring their own spending money and are expected to pay for clothing, souvenirs and personal items.

HOW LONG IS THE COMMITMENT?

International students live with a Host Family for at least one full, 10-month academic year. All students should arrive approximately one week before school begins and depart 7-10 days after the program ends. Full academic year students arrive in early August and depart in late May.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DOES A HOST FAMILY RECEIVE?

Oakbrook Prep is sensitive to both the needs of the Host Family and the needs of your international student. The International Student Coordinator/Admissions Director and the Head of School are available to answer questions, and to offer support. In the event of an emergency, a member of the administration is available via mobile phone on a 24-hour basis. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our Host Families and strive to provide each Host Family with all of the support and understanding they might need to ensure an enriching experience.

WHAT INFORMATION IS GIVEN BEFORE THE HOSTING EXPERIENCE?

Host families receive a profile of the student they will host before arrival. The coordinator visits with the family to explain the hosting experience and to answer any questions. Emergency contact information is provided as well as guidelines for hosting.

WHAT WILL OUR EXCHANGE STUDENT EXPECT?

International students expect to be treated as a member of your family. They have made the decision to leave behind their own family and friends to have the experience of living with an American family and attending an American high school. International students are as diverse as the families who host them. Some are outgoing and gregarious; others are quiet and shy. Like most teenagers around the world, they are curious and inquisitive. They have come to the U.S. to discover what the American way of life is all about. Your international student will expect you to communicate with him/her about your values, and will also expect you to listen when he/she tells you about the way of life of his/her country.

WILL THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ABIDE BY THE RULES OF OUR HOME?

Your student is expected to behave as a member of your family and follow all of the rules and expectations of your household. Since every family has its own set of house rules and policies, it is important for the family to take time in the beginning to explain what the students needs to know about your household, including rules, chores, daily schedules, curfews, etc. You should be honest and open about your household rules. Remember, your student is not merely a guest, but a new member of your family!

WHO COVERS THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S EXPENSES DURING THE PROGRAM?

All international students have their own spending money for clothes, souvenirs, school supplies, snacks outside the home, and entertainment. Host Families are expected to provide food, room and board for the student. The expenses of Host Families differ depending on the lifestyles of each individual family. Host Families receive \$900 per month to cover the actual costs of host. If actual costs are greater than this amount, the Host Family should discuss this with the coordinator.

MAY AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SHARE A BEDROOM WITH ANOTHER CHILD?

Yes. It is required that children sharing a room are the same gender and there is no more than a five year age difference between the two. International students may not share a room with an adult. An international student must have his or her own bed and space in the closet and the chest of drawers. An appropriate place for study must be provided.

IS THE HOST FAMILY THE LEGAL SPONSOR FOR THE STUDENT?

No. Oakbrook Prep is the legal sponsor for the student. As the legal sponsor, Oakbrook issues the documents necessary for the student to obtain a visa to enter the United States and to attend school

and remains legally responsible for the student for the duration of the program. The Host Family does, however, have permission to obtain medical treatment from a licensed physician for the student when necessary

SHOULD OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ATTEND CHURCH WITH US?

Yes. One of the most important aspects of an international student's attendance at Oakbrook Prep is the opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each international student comes to us with the understanding that he or she will attend church services regularly. It is at the discretion of the Host Family where and how often the international student attends church and in which activities the student will participate. Families are encouraged to share Christian principles at every opportunity with the international student. Hosts should recognize that many international students come from cultures where the Bible has not been taught. It is important for Host Families to be patient and not offend or coerce a student to accept Christian teaching.

More Questions?

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