



Host Family Talking Points

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A HOST FAMILY:

- Must be 25 years or older.
- Family members 17 years and older must pass a Criminal Background Check (CBC). CBCs will be reviewed by the PAF home office.
- In general, host family members cannot have a felony on their CBC. Some exceptions may be made for nonviolent and offenses that occurred many years ago.
- Families must be above poverty level and hosting a student should not create a financial hardship.
- Families cannot receive government assistance for housing or food benefits (i.e. food stamps, S.N.A.P benefits, etc.).

HOST FAMILY COMPENSATION:

- Families hosting J1 students are volunteers and cannot be compensated by the Area Representative or Pan Atlantic Foundation per Department of State guidelines.
- Families are eligible for a \$50/month tax credit for hosting.

HOST FAMILY BENEFITS:

- They add another member to their family.
- They make a teenager's dream come true!
- They share their culture with their host son/daughter.
- The student will share their culture with the host family, and may teach them how to cook their native foods and speak their language, etc.
- They can visit their host son/daughter in their home country.
- The natural families have much respect and appreciation for American host families.

WHAT HOST FAMILIES PROVIDE:

- Three meals a day
- Bedroom: student may share a bedroom with a host sibling of the same sex within 4 years of student's age, but must have their own bed.
- Transportation to and from school and activities approved by host family.



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PROGRAM LENGTH:

- Students arrive in late July or August depending on their school start date and orientation.
- If the family wants them to arrive early for a vacation or fall sports, it can be requested.
- Students must return home within 2 weeks of their last day of school (program rule).

HEALTH INSURANCE :

- Students have health insurance.
- Vaccines and sports physicals are not covered.
- Emergency Department visits require a \$300 co-pay if the student is not admitted as in-patient.
- We prefer students use Urgent Care for non-life threatening emergencies.
- Students pay for prescriptions, but can be reimbursed.

SPENDING MONEY:

- Student's natural parents have agreed to make \$250 per month accessible to their child.
- Students are responsible to pay for all personal, academic and social expenses.
- Students pay for school lunch if they choose that option over taking their lunch.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES:

- The student may travel with the host family by car or plane. If by plane, a travel request form must be submitted and approved.
- If the family travels without the student, the student may stay with a trusted family member (CBC required if >5 nights), another approved host family or an Area Representative.
- Students traveling outside of the U.S. are required to send their DS form to the PAF office for signature and their visa must also have a "M" for multiple entry.
- Anytime a student is missing school, traveling with someone other than the host family or traveling by air, a Travel Request form must be submitted to the Area Rep.
- The PAF home office must receive completed Travel Request forms at least 2 weeks prior for domestic travel and 3 weeks prior for international travel.



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PAYMENT FOR TRAVEL:

- Students pay for their own airfare when they travel with family.
- The family still provides 3 meals a day for the student.
- The student should pay for their own entrance fees for theme parks or other entertainment.
- Families should talk to their students about financial expectations prior to their travel.

HOST FAMILY APPLICATION :

- Complete the host family application at www.iwanttohost.org
- If families have difficulty uploading photos, they can send them to their Area Rep.
- Area Reps can take the application pictures for the family at the host family interview.
- The photos and the host family application are sent by the home office to our partner agents who share it with the student and their natural family.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK (CBC):

- This is the direct link for host families to complete their CBC:
https://www.screenmenow.com/v2/home#/home?c=SLRT_04135.
- Expect it to take a few days or longer for results.