



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What responsibilities do hosts have and what is required to become a IHA host?

A: A IHA host family must:

- Share a commitment to hosting and an understanding of the responsibilities involved.
- Provide the student with a bed and a place to study. A student may not share a bed. A student may share a room, but only with another IHA approved student.
- Provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for the student. Students are not required to cook.
- Help improve student's conversational English speaking skills.
- Be financially secure and understand the difference between renting a room and hosting a student.
- In addition, IHA families must be interested in learning about other countries and cultures.
- An application must be completed and submitted.

Q: Do hosts get paid for providing homestay services by International Homestay America (IHA)?

A: Yes, hosts are paid a stipend monthly directly by International Homestay America (IHA), not student, for providing homestay services.

Q: Do all students visiting the U.S. speak English?

A: Most have studied English but it is important to remember that their goal is to improve their conversational English speaking skills and are typically enrolled in an English language program. We expect you to help the student improve his or her English conversational speaking skills by speaking with them frequently.

Q: How are the students screened?

A: In almost all situations, students are screened by their home country. Typically, they have been granted an F-1 Visa by the U.S. State Department to study in the U.S. Additionally, students have to clear customs upon arrival, to the U.S. IHA's first encounter with the student is typically upon their arrival into the destination city within the U.S. Also, as part of the placement process we screen the student application for potential issues with compatibility with our hosts.

Q: Do IHA students have responsibilities?

A: IHA students are expected to adapt to the host family's lifestyle and house rules & expectations and to participate in family activities. IHA students know that this program is not a trip or a tour, but an academic homestay that requires work and effort that will result in learning. It is reasonable for you to expect that students clean up after themselves and help with family chores only if you clearly state this to the student.

Q: Do hosts need to give the student an allowance?

A: IHA students have their own spending money, typically provided by their families. They are responsible for their own phone bills, school expenses, recreation, and transportation expenses, unless IHA requires you to provide transportation.

Q: What if my student gets sick?

A: Call 911 if there is an emergency or take the student to the nearest hospital. Most of the schools that IHA students attend require that they purchase medical insurance.

Q: What happens if the placement doesn't work out?

A: If a student and host family have a misunderstanding, the IHA Homestay Coordinator provides counsel and support. If a host has an insurmountable difficulty or an unexpected change in family life, IHA will arrange for the student to be placed with another host.

Q: How old are the students who participate?

A: Most students are between the ages of 18 and 30 when they enter the U.S.

"Providing Memorable Homestay Experiences"

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