



Host Family Frequently Asked Questions

We understand when a family considers opening its home and heart to an international exchange student there will be a lot of questions that will be asked. Here is just a few that have been asked most often:

How will our family benefit by hosting an international student through Astar?

There are many reasons why hosting is a wonderful experience for the whole family. You and your family have a chance to learn about another culture and language – all in the comfort of your own home. You have the opportunity to start a life-long relationship with your new “son” or “daughter,” and when your student returns home you will have a special friend in another country. Members of your family will feel closer to each other through sharing your daily lives with an international student. Your son or daughter will gain a global perspective of the world – learning more about geography, communication and international cultures. If your children are young, they will love to have a big brother or sister from another country. Most of all, you will all have a lot of fun.

What are the requirements for being a host family?

Host families are as different and diverse as Americans themselves. They come from all ethnic, racial and economic and religious backgrounds. They live in cities, small towns and rural communities. Your open home can serve as a supportive environment for our exchange students adjusting to a new culture.

Host families must provide:

1. A bed for the international student to sleep in. It doesn't have to be a separate room – students can share a bedroom with a same-sex child.
2. Access to a bathroom - it is okay if it is shared with other family members.
3. 3 meals a day on weekends and only 2 meals a day on weekdays since students will eat lunch at the school.
4. Transportation from after school activities on select days.

**Host families are NOT responsible for transportation to and from the airport or to BFHS in the mornings. Students will ride the school bus with BFHS students.

How much time should we expect to host our international student?

The students will arrive on **January 25, 2019** and depart on **Jan. 31, 2019**. You will only be expected to host during this time.

Will our international student speak English?

All of our students who come to the US have studied English for five years or more in their home country– practicing both written and spoken English. The students participating in this upcoming camp are from one of the best schools in their province. The students are part of an international program at the school so their English will be very good!

How much does it cost to host an international student?

There is no charge. The only expenses for your family will be the costs of including another person in your regular activities, including three meals a day. Although during the school week, the student will eat lunch at the school so you don't need to worry about lunch on these days.

Are we responsible for our student's medical bills or spending money?

No, not at all! Astar students are fully covered with medical and accidental insurance once they enter the US. The insurance card with policy information will be sent directly to you as a host family member prior to the student's arrival.

What will happen if we have problems while hosting?

At Astar we believe in sustaining an environment for students and family members to feel safe to discuss what is troubling them. We partner with host families to resolve conflict. Our representatives will do their best to help you resolve any difficult situations that arise during the program. While we don't anticipate any major crisis, if the situation is severe, please don't hesitate to call our office directly or 24-hour afterhours phone number. Our office can issue severe warnings and any students with severe behavior issues will be removed from their host family for the remainder of the visit if needed.



What is the purpose behind the winter international exchange student program?

Astar began in 2006 as an educational non-profit. Astar was founded with the purpose of fostering good relations between the US and China. Astar Education Institute wanted to offer the two countries an opportunity to appreciate and learn from one another. Today we represent students all around the world.

We consider our host families to be citizen-ambassadors. Our families play a unique role in representing what America is truly about to these students whose idea of the US is sometimes formed only by what they see on television or are taught in their schools. Our students look forward to improving his/her English as well as experiencing American culture first-hand in an immersive setting.

What other kinds of activities will our student participate in while in the US?

The intention behind hosting is to have your Astar student participate in any activities your family is involved in – from household chores to family outings. Astar students come to the US expecting a family living experience, not a travel program. However, many families enjoy showing their student what makes our country special – everything from historical places to natural wonders, from sporting events to the arts.

Astar will be coordinating activities after school hours for the international students during the program. These activities include tours of local police and fire stations, a visit to the Children's Science Center for a STEM activity and sightseeing at the local Manassas Battlefields.

No doubt your Astar student also will make friends in school and in the community.

The benefit of American students who host International Exchange Students?

All the American students who will host Astar winter international students will have a free trip in China for the coming year of 2019. Please see China trip details attached.