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**Host an international student!**

Education First provides your family with the opportunity to host international students from Europe and Asia for 2-4 week sessions each summer. It’s a chance to learn about another culture, share your own culture lifestyle, make life-long friends, and of course, to have fun! EF students participate in a full class and activity program from Monday to Friday between 8:30am to 5:30pm, accompanied by our staff of ESL Teachers and Activity Leaders. Additionally, EF provides school bus transportation from convenient stops in your town and a $100 stipend per student per week to help cover the cost of hosting.

**The Students**

EF students range from 10 to 17 years old (depending on the program location) and come from countries in Europe and Asia. While EF students vary in English speaking ability, they can all hold basic conversations. This means you can focus on having fun and sharing and learning from one another. In addition, they arrive with comprehensive medical and travel insurance, and their flights and airport transfers are booked in advance by EF. During the program, your students become a part of your family, and they expect to take part in all aspects of your family life.

**Preparing for Arrival**

In the weeks leading up to your student’s arrival, you will be invited to a host family orientation during which your Host Family Program Manager will explain all aspects of the hosting experience, from how to cook for foreign students to how to deal with medical issues. It’s our way of making sure you are 100% ready and confident to host your students.

You’ll also receive the contact info of your students so you can reach out by email, Facebook or Skype prior to arrival. It’s fun to share pictures and stories about your family, home, pets, hobbies, and interests. Many of our host families even arrange a Skype video call to meet the student’s parents!

**Host Family Responsibilities**

Students are in classes and activities from Monday to Friday, so your family will spend evenings and weekends together. Additionally, host families provide the following:

* A warm, nurturing environment where learning and cultural exchange can take place.
* Three meals per day, including a simple breakfast, plus a bag lunch for school days or field trips.
* A separate bed in a bedroom with adequate light, a window, and space to hang clothes and store belongings.
* A space to study and do homework.
* Transportation to the bus school bus stop location before and after school from Monday to Friday.

Students can share a bedroom with other EF students or with members of your family of the same gender and within three years of age. A maximum of three students can stay in one room, and each student must have their own bed. There is a maximum of 4 host students per host family home.

**Dealing with “Culture Shock”**

This may be your student’s first time away from their country and they may feel culture shock or homesickness. During the first few days, plan simple activities like showing your student around your town, taking them to the grocery store, or going on a walk to a local park. Remember to give them a tour of your house. Simple things like light switches, showers, and laundry machines are typically different in other countries. Be sure your students are comfortable with household rules and with the meals you provide. Many families find it helpful to take their students to the grocery store to pick out items they enjoy.

**Staff Support**

With over 50 years of experience, we are with you every step of the way. Our staff is available 24/7 to answer questions and address any issues that may arise at any time during the program.

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: **How old are the students coming to the US?**

A: The students are between 10-17 years old.

Q: **Can students share a bedroom?**

A: Yes. Students can share a bedroom with other host students or host family siblings of the same gender, within 3 years of age.

Q: **Do the students speak/understand English?**

A: Yes. All EF students have studied English and their level ranges from basic to fluent. All students can hold basic conversations.

Q: **How many students can I host at a time?**

A: You can host up to four students at the same time.

Q: **Are host families paid?**

A: EF provides a stipend of $100 per week per student on a prorated basis to help cover the cost of hosting.

Q: **Are the students insured?**

A: Yes. Students must have comprehensive medical and travel insurance before departing on any EF trip. During orientation, you will receive a list of accepted local medical providers.

Q: **Am I supposed to be with the students 24/7 while they are here in the US?**

A: No. Our programs are designed to fit your family’s busy summer schedule. Students participate in classes and activities from 8:30am-5:30pm from Monday to Friday. Host Families should will spend evenings and weekends with their student.

Q: **Can I pick the gender or the nationality of my student(s)?**

A: Please inform your Host Family Program Manager of your preference. We’ll do our best to accommodate you.

**Interested in Hosting?**

Contact Hayley Sullivan

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831-313-7059

Q: **Can I contact my student(s) before they visit the US?**

A: Yes. Once you are officially matched with your student, you will receive their contact information, including their email address. We encourage you to reach out prior to arrival. The more you communicate with your student, the easier the transition once they arrive.

Q: **Who do I contact if something happens with my student?**

A: Your Host Family Program Manager is available 24/7 to address any questions, concerns or issues that arise before, during and after the program. Feel free to contact us any time.

Q: **I don’t have any children at home, can I still host?**

A: Yes. Our host families come in all shapes and sizes, including single parent households, empty-nesters, single or married professionals, families with small children and families with teenagers.

Q: **Do I pay for the student(s) when they are here?**

A: No. Students prepay for their program and bring their own spending money. You are welcome to treat your students when you feel it’s appropriate, but you are not expected to pay out of pocket for any part of their stay aside for meals.

Q: **Can our family participate in the program?**

A: Yes. We schedule host family events that occur during the summer to which all host families and their students are invited. It’s a lot of fun, and also a chance for you to meet other host families and EF staff.

Q: **How do my students get to/from school?**

A: EF provides school busses that pick up and drop off your students each day from conveniently located bus stops in your town. Host families will drop off/pick up their student at these designated bus stops in the morning and evening from Monday.

Q: **What are the benefits of hosting?**

* Open your family to a foreign culture and lifestyle – it’s an amazing learning experience!
* Make lifelong friends from all over the world
* Share your family’s lifestyle and values while promoting global peace and cultural understanding.
* Receive $100 per student per week on a prorated basis to help cover the cost of hosting.
* Connect with other like-minded families in your community.
* Receive a $200 voucher to be used on other EF trips!