



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 a comfortable bed and a place to study. International guests may not share a bed. International guests can share a room, only if it is a shared placement with another IHA approved international guest.
- Provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for your international guests.
- Help improve your international guest's conversational English speaking skills.
- Be financially secure and not dependent upon compensation from IHA for basic living expenses.
- Understand the difference between renting a room and providing host services for an international guest.
- Be interested and actively learn about other countries and cultures.
- Live within a current recruiting area, complete a host application, submit it, be interviewed in your home.

Q: Are hosts paid for providing homestay services?

A: Yes, hosts are paid monthly by International Homestay America (IHA) for providing homestay services.

Q: Do all international guests 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 international guest improve his or her conversational English speaking skills by talking with them frequently.

Q: Are the international guests screened?

A: In almost all situations, international guests are screened by their home country. Student guests are granted an F-1 Visa by our U.S. State Department to study in the U.S. Additionally, guests must clear customs upon arrival into the U.S. In most instances, our first meeting with the international guest is upon their arrival. Additionally, as part of the placement process, IHA screens the international guest's application for potential compatibility issues with our hosts.

Q: What expectations should I have of my international guests?

A: We expect international guests to treat you with respect and adapt to your family's lifestyle, participate in family activities, clean up after themselves, help with family chores, and adhere to your house rules and expectations of them and yourselves.

Q: Do the international guests have their own money?

A: IHA's international guests have their own money to cover their own expenses. These may include public transportation to or from school/work, personal items, clothing, phone bills, school expenses, and some recreation expenses.

Q: What do I do if my international guest gets sick?

A: Call 911 if there is an emergency or take the international guest to the nearest hospital. International guests usually have medical insurance. IHA hosts are not expected to pay for international guests medical expenses.

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

A: Your IHA Homestay Coordinator will counsel and support to reach a resolution. if there is an insurmountable difficulty or unexpected change in family life, IHA will arrange for the international guest to be placed with another host.

Q: What age are the international guests?

A: Most are between the ages of 18 and 30 with most in their early 20's upon arrival into the U.S.

Q: How often will international guests be placed with me and for how long?

A: Contact International Homestay America (IHA) for more information. info@ihausa.com

“Providing Memorable Homestay Experiences”

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