

ROLE OF A HOST FAMILY: FAQ

I have a small house. Will this be a problem?

No. Our only requirement is that they have their own room (must be a legal bedroom) with a door that can be closed for privacy.

Do they need to have their own bathroom?

No. Just make sure that there are arrangements made for the toiletries, especially for the women. Kids tend to want to play dress-up and use the intern's items. Be sure that the schedule for bathing and/or showering is pre-determined to avoid embarrassment and confusion.

We do not live in St. Louis Park. Can we still host an intern?

This will need to be determined on a case by case basis. The major issue is the ability to provide transportation for the intern. If this can be resolved, there is no reason why your family couldn't be a host family.

We do not have children at PSI, can we still host?

A host family that is in the district but do not have children attending PSI may be considered, but PSI families will always be given first priority.

We have a hectic schedule. We usually eat on the run. Will this be disappointing to the intern?

Everyone is different. For some it won't matter. This is an area that will be used when matching interns with their host family. Communicate and compromise. Always be sure to have food available for your intern to prepare their own meals.

Who is responsible for making the lunch (if brought from home)? For cleaning their room? For doing their laundry? I am too busy to do this.

This experience is an opportunity for the intern to gain independence and responsibility away from their home and their parents. Give them this chance to grow and be assertive about your expectations. You may want to give them a day or two to recover from jet lag and then discuss important guidelines. If problems arise, deal with them immediately and take the direct approach. Reiterate your original discussion regarding the issue at hand, and try to find a solution or compromise.

What if we want to take a vacation? Does the intern come along? Who pays for the additional expenses?

You are not obligated to take the intern with you on your vacation. If you want to ask them to go with your family, give them the details before hand. Be sure to explain their share of the expenses (airfare, entertainment, etc.). The intern can then decide if s/he can afford to go, or even whether s/he wants to go along. If they choose to stay home, you will need to decide if you are comfortable having them stay alone. Some families propose that another intern stay with them, while other families decide it might be a great opportunity for the Aunt/Uncle family to host the intern for a short-term period.

At the end of the year, what do I do if the intern wants to stay through the summer?

Generally most interns leave within a couple of weeks of school ending. Their J-1 VISA requires that they must leave within 30 days of the last day of their assignment (last day of school). Often they take the last 30 days to travel around the US before going home. Having said this, your hosting responsibilities cease 1 week after school ends.

We can't imagine how we would be able to entertain someone for four months!

This experience is very different than having an out-of -town guest to entertain for a few days. The intern is here to be a part of your host family and is not a short-term visitor. Just live your life and the intern will find all of the new experiences very interesting. They want to experience and understand the American culture.

Our children are too young!

There are many previous host families who would be happy to discuss this experience with you. It is amazing how much their young children have been enriched by having an intern live in their home.

Can I expect the intern to baby-sit? Or tutor me or my family?

This is not a requisite for the intern to receive room and board. If they agree to do this for you and your family, the going rate is \$7 an hour for childcare (minimum) and \$20 an hour for tutoring.

We have a very busy schedule and don't have time to drive an intern to their activities.

No problem. We encourage the intern to walk, bike, and use the public transportation system whenever possible. We also advise all current families to coordinate carpooling in order to share the driving responsibility. Lastly, each intern is paired with one Aunt/Uncle family in order to assist in transportation needs.

We have special dietary needs (i.e. vegetarian diet, gluten free diet, etc.) can we still host an intern?

Maintaining a balanced diet is very important for our interns. We would encourage you to host an intern, but our expectation is that accommodations would be made in order for the intern to maintain their current healthy diet. For example, if you follow a vegetarian diet it would be expected that the intern would be allowed to maintain his or her own diet, likely including meat.

If you have further questions regarding becoming a host family please contact:

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