



## **Potential IPERC Host Family FAQ's**

**Q: I'm hesitant to host because of the virus, will my student be required to quarantine upon arrival?**

**A:** IPERC understands your concern and asks that you do not pass on the opportunity to host solely because of this. Students will be required to be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival into the US and IPERC will take all precautions necessary to ensure the safety of our host families. IPERC can arrange “off-site” quarantine for students prior to move-in if host families prefer.

**Q: Will I be provided with information about my student prior to his/her arrival?**

**A:** Yes, your local Host Family Coordinator will provide you with your student profile prior to his/her arrival. We also encourage you to communicate with him/her via WeChat, email, Skype, etc. to get acquainted with one another prior to arrival. IPERC will provide you with your student's contact information.

**Q: What kind of support is provided to the host family?**

**A:** Host families have a local coordinator that can be contacted at any time to help answer questions or respond to any issues that come up. The coordinator is in contact at least once a month to check in and make sure both the host family and student are having an enjoyable experience.

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

**A:** The students go through interviews with the school to ensure that their English language proficiency is enough to competently complete the schoolwork required of them. They also need to demonstrate their English ability during their visa interview. There is an adjustment period, of course. One of the main goals for international students is to improve their English.

**Q: What grade are the students in?**

**A:** IPERC assists students in Grades 6 through 12. Most students are 9th graders since they plan to attend all 4 years of high school. We do get applicants for all grades as well as returning students who sometimes need a new home.

**Q: What if I want to continue hosting after one year?**

**A:** We have host families who host students for just one year, some who host the same student for their entire high school career, etc. Hosting is a 10-month commitment that is re-evaluated by IPERC and the host family each year.

**Q: Can the student share a bedroom with another international student or with one of my children?**

**A:** We do allow students to share a bedroom with another student of the same gender. However, we do try to avoid this if possible and prefer that the student has his/her own bedroom.

**Q: What does the stipend cover?**

**A:** The stipend covers the student's living expenses (utilities, room, etc.), transportation costs, and all food aside from school lunches. Tuition, medical, and any academic costs are paid for by the student. Additional activities the student participates in, such as joining a club at school or going to the movies with friends is also paid for by the student.

**Q: What household duties are the students expected to do?**

**A:** Students are expected to clean up after themselves and keep their room clean. Students can do their own laundry if preferred by the host family and be given other weekly duties as needed.

**Q: What kinds of diet restrictions will the student have?**

**A:** Most students do not have any strict diet habits, but they are partial to their native foods. We typically recommend offering to take them to the grocery store with you or occasionally visiting the International Grocery Store to help them make some food choices for themselves. They may ask to cook the family a traditional meal every once in a while, but students will enjoy whatever the family cooks for meals.

**Q: Do the students have health insurance?**

**A:** The students do come with their own health insurance. If needed students can go to a minute-clinic, or urgent care, or a hospital in cases of extreme emergency. They will not have a regular family doctor. Any bills will be paid by the students' natural family. The Host Family does have medical authorization to make emergency decisions on the natural parents' behalf.

**Q: What if the student has a medical emergency?**

**A:** Host families are provided with emergency medical authorization to make decisions on behalf of the student's natural parents.

**Q: Will the student stay at my house when school is out on an extended break?**

**A:** Most students do remain with the host family during the holidays - on rare occasions they will choose to go home for extended periods that school is out. Students can travel with the host family and we can also assist with alternative placements during these times if you are unable to host during your family's scheduled travel.

**Q: Are the students allowed to stay at a friend's house?**

**A:** Students can have sleepovers with friends with host family permission. We request the host family get the name and contact information of the friend's parent(s).

**Q: What if my student wants to go out of town with friends?**

**A:** Students are allowed to travel with proper authorization. They must complete the following form and get signed permission from both their natural parents, host family, and IPERC.

**Q: Do I need to purchase the student's books or uniforms?**

**A:** The student comes with their own spending money. They purchase books, supplies, uniforms, school lunch, clothes, etc.

**Q: Will I need to help the student with their homework?**

**A:** Our organization works closely with the school and student to ensure they are receiving extra tutoring if necessary. The Host Family does have Progress Book access and we want host families to treat this student as their own child, and sometimes that means talking to the student about what challenges or extra help they need if they are struggling.

**Q: Do host families have access to the student's grades?**

**A:** For schools with online grade accounts the host family will have access to up-to-date grades. We do recommend checking these to make sure that the student is staying on track.

**Q: Will my student participate in any after-school activities? Sports or clubs?**

**A:** We do strongly encourage our international students to get involved in a club and attend sporting events if they have free time. In some cases, international students are not able to participate in competitive sports.

**Register to host at [www.iperc.org/hostfamily](http://www.iperc.org/hostfamily)**

**Questions?**

Email: [hostfamily@iperc.org](mailto:hostfamily@iperc.org)

Phone: 614-553-8513

Website: [www.iperc.org](http://www.iperc.org)