



THE LAURASIAN
INSTITUTION

Host Family

Informational Flyer

Our academic year student exchange program builds greater cultural understanding between American families and international high school students and by extension the communities in which they live.

During their year studying in America, it is hoped that the exchange student will:

1. Gain a greater understanding and appreciation of U.S. customs and perspectives.
2. Share his or her native country's culture with classmates, the host family, and host community.
3. Act as a cultural and language resource person in classrooms, international clubs, et cetera.
4. Make friends and relationships that will last a lifetime.

Host families are integral to the process of helping the program not only achieve the educational goals as outlined, but to help the exchange students become familiar with life in the U.S. and better understand American culture.

TLI will support the exchange student and host family with a local coordinator and by ensuring access to a bilingual staff person 24 hours/7 days a week. TLI provides support to encourage student success, resolve problems or difficulties, and help utilize the student's knowledge in both the classroom and community.

A successful home-stay depends upon a reasonable alignment of expectations on both sides. Living with others requires a great deal of flexibility, courtesy, respect, patience, and honesty. To this end, it is expected that the host families will discuss expectations with the exchange student soon after his or her arrival.

As the Host Family, you are an **integral** part of helping the exchange students achieve familiarity with life in the U.S. and develop a better understanding of American culture.



Host families provide housing for the exchange students. All participants will be high school students and will be between 15 and 18 years of age.

What does your commitment to being a host family mean in practical terms?

Though exact arrangements will vary from family to family, here are some basic expectations:

A. Room and Board

Housing & three meals a day are to be provided for the duration of the commitment made to the program (normally two to ten months). The exchange student should be given his or her own room, but a student may share a room with a host sibling of the same gender and of similar age. In this case, the student is to be provided with his/her own bed, study space, and closet/storage space. It is important to define clearly from the beginning those spaces which will be available for organizing, storing, and displaying personal belongings.



B. Companionship and Outings

Living in a foreign country can initially be a lonely and frightening experience. Spending quality time with the host family will help the student overcome homesickness and more quickly adapt to American life. A host family becomes a true second family to the student and they look forward to being included in family activities. Exchange students are teenagers, ages 15-18, and will enjoy the companionship of their peers, so please keep this in mind as you plan activities for your exchange student. Please communicate activity plans and state all invitations clearly, to help avoid miscommunication. When the exchange student is invited to go out with the host family, the student will most likely assume that his or her expenses are going to be covered by the host family just as they would be at home with their own family. If it is expected that the student will contribute to the cost of an outing, please state that explicitly as well.



C. Transportation

All exchange students will need transportation between the host family's home and the host school.

D. Language

English must be the primary language spoken in the home.

E. Double Placement

Should there be a second exchange student in the home, the students' nationalities must be different.



The Laurasian Institution
Attn: Academic Year Program
12345 Lake City Way #151
Seattle, WA 98125
email: ayp@laurasian.org
phone: 1-800-721-7474
www.laurasian.org



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