

IFF PROGRAMS

IFF offers several different kinds of homestay programs for groups and individuals, usually lasting 1-4 weeks during the school year and summer. These include:

ESL PROGRAMS

Students attend English classes most weekdays in addition to a planned program of activities and excursions.

IMMERSION PROGRAMS

Students participate in planned activities and excursions, but they have ample free time to integrate more fully into the host family's lifestyle.

SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMS

Students who visit during the school year have their program of activities and excursions augmented with visits to the local middle or high school.

TOTAL IMMERSION AND INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

Students spend their entire time immersed in the culture of the family.

The IFF Community Coordinator
in your area is:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

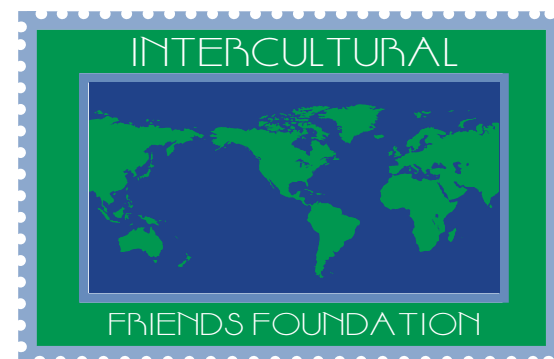
ARE HOST FAMILIES PAID? In order to make programs affordable for a wide number of students, our host families are NOT paid. For the most part, hosts who express an interest in hosting a foreign exchange student are not so much interested in financial remuneration as they are in the cultural experiences available to them.

ARE STUDENTS INSURED? Yes. All IFF participants arrive in the United States with medical and accident insurance.

DO STUDENTS BRING THEIR OWN MONEY? Yes. Hosts are asked only to provide meals and a comfortable place to sleep. The student is responsible for all personal expenses during the program and their excursions are provided for in the program package.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BECOME AN IFF HOST? A true desire to host a student is the most important requirement. Outside of that, IFF acknowledges that there are many different types of households in the United States - which all go into making America the wonderfully diverse place that it is. With this in mind the IFF staff make each hosting decision an individual one, based for the most part on host interviews. Having children present in the home is not necessarily a prerequisite for hosting.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AN IFF STUDENT? All IFF students are screened by the Foreign Organization and have accident and medical insurance. All participants have studied English and have come to the United States with the desire for greater proficiency in the English language.



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BRING THE WORLD INTO YOUR HOME

HOST FAMILIES



THE HEART OF IFF

The host family experience is the most important element of our program. All IFF families are volunteers who want to share their homes and family life with international students and learn more about other people and cultures.

Family types vary as much as the general population. Many of our host families consist of a mother, father and children. Other hosts are single mothers with children, married couples with no children or couples whose children are grown and no longer live at home. While each of our families is different, they all share a common trait - a sincere desire to open their homes and hearts to an international student.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

STUDENTS live with a volunteer host family to experience a foreign culture and to improve their English language skills. Student fees cover all program costs and students bring their own spending money to cover entertainment and souvenirs.

GROUP ESCORTS accompany students from their native countries. They assist the Community Coordinator in a team effort with activities, chaperoning trips, teaching English, and most importantly, helping the students adjust to their new host families.

HOST FAMILIES volunteer to provide a warm and caring environment, including room and board, to students from a foreign country. Families are matched with students based on mutual interests as described in their applications.

COMMUNITY COORDINATORS live in the community where the students stay. They are responsible for the planning of the Excursion Itinerary and supervising the program for the students. Community Coordinators are chosen because of their interest in intercultural sharing and working with people.

The **IFF HOME OFFICE** led by IFF President Miriam Rheinstein, who has over twenty years of experience overseeing international student exchange programs, maintains constant contact with the Community Coordinators to ensure smooth program operations.

WHAT IS IFF

IFF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and implementation of affordable student exchange programs for young people around the world.

In offering Homestay Programs for international youth, IFF brings students to America from all over the world. As participants in the Homestay Program, the students live with American hosts who open their hearts and their homes to these international visitors - a small but important step towards world peace and understanding.

Students benefit by being afforded the opportunity to know American culture first hand - not what is seen on television or in the movies - but the actual day to day lifestyle of people who truly make America the fascinating place it is.

In turn, American hosts are given the opportunity to know and understand the differences and similarities between their and the young foreign students' cultures, ideas, concerns, and beliefs.

In a few short weeks, a friendship is often established that will last a lifetime, not to mention the pride that can be taken in having promoted a little slice of international understanding!