

ISE U.S. Hosting Program



building bridges
between cultures...

building relationships
of a lifetime...

an **opportunity**
that shouldn't be missed!



**where
language
matters®**

Dear Prospective Host Family,

Thank you for your interest in hosting an international student! By volunteering as a host family, you are helping ISE promote its mission: to inspire and educate students of the world through experiential learning across cultures.

For many families, opening their home to a student from abroad has enriched their lives, connected them to the world, and even provided a fresh perspective about the circumstances of their own life as a family! We hope that hosting a student will initiate a life-long friendship with a family overseas.

ISE welcomes host families of all shapes and sizes. Our families are large and small families, who come from rural and urban areas, and of wealthy or modest means. It's important to note that ISE host families do not receive payment for hosting, though discounts/rebates are available for students who travel with ISE.

Please read this brochure for basic program information. Your Local Coordinator will have more information on the details of the specific program in your area. You may complete the Host Family Application included in this brochure and return it to the Local Coordinator. Your application will then be reviewed by the Local Coordinator and ISE. Your participation in the program will be confirmed as soon as possible. Roughly 2-3 months prior to the students' arrival, you will receive more information about the student you will host—their application, a "Dear Family" Letter to your family as well as photos of the student and their family.

We look forward to having you as an ISE host family and working with you in this worthy endeavor!



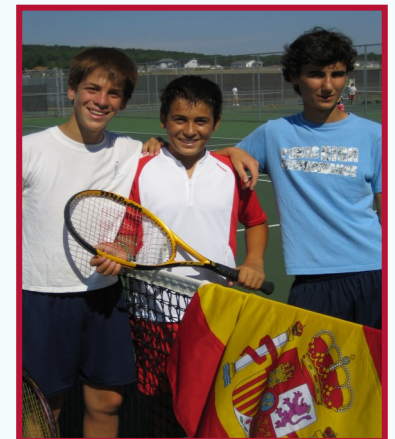
Why host an ISE student?

- Promote cultural understanding by sharing your family's customs and traditions with an international student and learning about his/hers.
- Help an international student build his/her English skills.
- Develop a relationship with another family from overseas. Many host families go to visit their student in his/her home country!
- Receive a discount/rebate on your own ISE educational travel program.

Who can host?

Families of all types can host. Eligibility includes:

- *Primary language spoken in the host family home is English with a commitment to speak English at home as much as possible!*
- Host family must provide the student with a bed of his/her own.
- Student can share a room with a child of the same gender and approximate age, or have a single bedroom.
- Host family may be responsible for transporting the visiting student to classes or activities, depending on what program they are participating in.
- Host family is responsible for providing meals.



Host brothers spend time with their new friend from Spain at a summer sports tennis camp.

Commonly Asked Questions & Facts



A group of host families waiting for the arrival of their host brothers and sisters at the airport

"We had a lot of fun sharing our cultures. We shared laughter, jokes and card games. We miss our host brother a great deal! We may even travel and visit him next summer!!"

-Host family in Eagan, MN

"Our experience as a host family was wonderful. The student we had got along well with all of our family members. He knew a lot about the US, was willing to meet new people, and adjusted well to our schedule. He was willing to try new foods and activities. We agreed to host someone because my daughter is going to Spain in the spring. I think it helped to prepare her for what her own experience will be like."

-Host Family in Walworth, WI

When do the visiting students come and where do they come from?

All of ISE's visiting students come during the summer, usually at the end of June and July for a period of 3-5 weeks.

Our current partnerships include Spain, France, Germany, China and Latin America.

What does ISE expect from our host families?

The primary expectation of the host family is to provide a loving, safe, open home to a visiting student. *ISE wants families to spend time with their student and include them in their normal lifestyle, but we do not expect them to plan expensive activities that the family wouldn't otherwise do.* Remember, things that seem common in your daily life will be of interest to your student and provide great language acquisition opportunities! The visiting students come with spending money, if your family decides to plan a few special outings.

Host families will receive an orientation packet from ISE once they are accepted into the program. The orientation packet will answer many questions that may arise during the visiting student's stay. Of course, ISE and the Local Coordinator are great resources. Inevitably, you will encounter a few challenges along the way; it's all part of learning from each other! But, rest assured, we are here to support you. Should any type of problem arise during the summer, we are always available to help you manage the situation. Visiting students have their own insurance.

What are the students like?

Every student is different! They have all come to the U.S. with a great curiosity about you, your customs, and American life. General eligibility requirements are: 14-18 years of age, healthy, clear of any criminal convictions or history, minimum of two years English language experience and all students must sign the code of conduct. Most students have studied English for several years but have not had the opportunity to put it to practical use. Of course, some cultural differences could lead to confusion and misunderstandings. -All you need is a little patience and the willingness to seek support from ISE or your Local Coordinator!

"Our families all seemed to have a great time and praised the program. There aren't many opportunities like this to host and they all enjoyed it. Seeing the families/kids having a tough time saying goodbye was proof for me that it was a successful, meaningful program."

-Local Coordinator in Appleton, WI



Host brothers and sisters sharing some summer fun together under the sun



ISE Host Family Application Form



For Placement Coordinator use Entered in DB _____ Placement reported _____ Confirm sent _____
 Visitor's Name: _____ Hosting Dates: _____ Code #: _____

Please fill out the following form completely or your application will not be considered. Remember to print in BLACK ink please! Detach this form once completed and return to your Local Coordinator.

HOSTING STUDENT'S NAME: _____ Age _____ Gender _____
 Name of High School _____ Language Studied _____
 Your ISE Local Coordinator _____

HOSTING STUDENT'S CONTACT INFO:

Student e-mail _____
 Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Student Cell _____

PARENTS:

Father's Name _____ Age _____
 Occupation _____ Cell phone _____
 Mother's Name _____ Age _____
 Occupation _____ Cell phone _____
 Parent e-mail _____

Marital Status: married divorced* separated* widowed single

*Please indicate with which parent the host student will be staying _____

CHILDREN: Please indicate NAMES AND AGES of children living in the household other than the hosting student.

Boys _____
 Girls _____

FAMILY:

1. Have you traveled on an ISE program? yes / no If yes, which country _____ Year _____
2. Have you ever hosted a foreign student? Yes No
3. Is your family religiously active? yes / no If yes, religion: _____
4. Has your family traveled? yes / no If yes, where? _____
5. Do you have pets? Please specify: _____
6. Will the hosting student be working while hosting? Yes No
7. Does anyone in your household smoke? Yes No
8. Does anyone in the family speak a foreign language? If so, who, which language(s), and to what degree?

See REVERSE SIDE to complete application



ISE Host Family Application Form



Host Family Information: Please describe your family, and list why your family is interested in hosting.

Host Student Information: Please write about your interests, hobbies, work, travel experience, free-time activities, etc. This helps ISE match the visiting student to your family. This section **MUST** be completed fully by the student.

HOSTING PREFERENCES

Our family wishes to host a **boy** **girl** **adult chaperone**. Age preference: _____

If you requested a girl, would you be willing to accept a boy or vice versa? Yes No

Our family would like to host: (Check all that apply, you will only be asked to host one student)

Chinese French German Spanish Latin America Any

How long are you willing to host a student? 3 weeks

Share 3 weeks with another family

5 weeks

Share 5 weeks with another family

Is there a time between June through August where you are not able to host a family? If so, please specify: _____

REFERENCES:

Clergy, teacher or other professional:

Family friend (not relative):

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

DO YOU KNOW ANOTHER FAMILY WHO WOULD LIKE TO HOST? _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____



Intercultural Student Experiences (ISE), is a nonprofit educational organization, founded in 1972. Our mission is:

To inspire and educate students of the world through experiential learning across cultures.

Each year, ISE works with teachers, parents and students from more than thirty states. Throughout our history, more than 90,000 teachers and students have experienced our international programs or participated in hosting programs. ISE staff members and our board of directors are committed to ensuring your experience with us is meaningful and life-changing.

Learn more about ISE on our website:
www.isemn.org



ISE Staff

Back (left to right): Keely, Courtney, Debby, Ron, Tracy, Holly
Front (left to right): Kristi, Katharina, Tanya, Cindy, Anca, Jennifer, Jana



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