



# Share Your Home, Change the World.

## Host a YFU Exchange Student



### Hosting a YFU Exchange Student Fits Your Lifestyle

Hosting is about sharing your version of the American lifestyle with a new son or daughter. As a host family, you'll give your student a caring, supportive and warm family life. Successful host families should:

- Be interested in teenagers and international students and have realistic expectations of what life with a teenager is like.
- Provide a stable family unit.
- Offer an emotionally supportive environment as the student goes through his or her adjustment process.
- Be able to provide for an additional member of the family including a separate bed, suitable study area, and three meals per day. Families of moderate means can afford to host a student.
- Be prepared to assist the exchange student to participate in school and community events.



### Your Family Can Be a YFU Host Family

lives with a fascinating teenager from a foreign land, and provide guidance, love and support to a young person who is beginning their journey into adulthood, then you will be a great host family. All kinds of families make wonderful YFU Host Families—yours will too!

Host families have many different faces, and are all part of the American experience. You can be a host family whether or not you have children. If your family is willing to open yourselves to new experiences, share your



### Five Great Reasons to Host a YFU Student

#### 1. Experience a new and exciting family dynamic.

Parents with an only child may want to provide the experience of a sibling relationship for their son or daughter, or families with young children may want to provide an older sibling and role model. Even "empty nesters" or younger couples without children enjoy the hosting experience.

#### 2. Give your family a new perspective on your community.

By showing your student different aspects of your community life, you'll find yourself exploring your community

and your surroundings through different eyes. Even a simple trip to the grocery store may be filled with wonder for your new exchange student.

#### 3. Connect your family to the world.

Hosting broadens your family's view of the world without leaving home. Hosting creates a home experience that is likely to make your children more tolerant and understanding of other cultures and peoples. It will encourage them to explore new ideas and recognize similarities and differences between our culture and others.

#### 4. Change forever how your family thinks about the world.

Create lifelong memories and relationships

between your family and your YFU student.

#### 5. Change the world.

Relationships and experiences gained through the exchange process create connections and feelings of global unity and friendship that will help promote peace and understanding for future generations.



### YFU Helps You Change the World

Since 1951, YFU has been a leader in youth exchange programs in more than 60 countries. Each year, more than 4,200 students participate in our programs worldwide. Through the exchange experience, YFU students gain skills and perspectives that help them meet the challenges and opportunities of our fast-changing

*"Hosting is about laughing at a lot of funny words, experiences, misinterpretations and mistakes. It's seeing that kid experience a lot of things for the very first time. It is about teaching and sharing and seeing something from a totally different perspective. It's about fear, pride, nurturing, loving and getting so connected to someone that you feel like a part of you leaves when they get on the plane."*

*- J. Spel, Host Dad from Texas*



Youth For Understanding USA  
www.yfu-usa.org

60TH ANNIVERSARY

www.yfu-usa.org | 1.866.4.YFU.USA

Youth For Understanding (YFU) prepares young people for their responsibilities and opportunities in a changing, interdependent world.

## Meet a Typical YFU Student



**YFU students are carefully selected from one of more than 60 countries around the world.** Every YFU student undergoes a thorough selection process, including personal interviews, recommendations, and medical examinations.

**YFU students speak English.** Most exchange students adapt well to studying and living in an English-speaking environment. YFU students have been tested for English language proficiency and have earned good grades.

**YFU students are eager to learn about you.** YFU students from other countries are typically open-minded, adventurous youths who have chosen to undertake an exchange to connect with a new family and culture and learn first-hand about another country. They're eager to learn about American culture from you, improve their English skills and study in an American school.

**YFU students bring their own spending money and have medical insurance while in the U.S.** The main expenses for your family are those of including another person in meals, transportation, and regular family activities.

**YFU students can share a bedroom.** Exchange students can share bedrooms with other children of the same gender and similar age.

## YFU Supports You Every Step of the Way

YFU's network of trained, community-based volunteers and international structure provides an extensive support system for students, natural families and especially for host families. YFU volunteers are in your local area, supporting you every step of the way and are able to help when and where they are needed.



A successful relationship between your exchange student and your family begins with preparation. Your local YFU volunteer works to find the right exchange student to become part of your family. He or she will review the student's profile, application materials and photos with your family to involve everyone in the selection process.

YFU provides professional orientations for students and families throughout the year. Also:

- YFU provides 24-hour emergency support.
- In many areas, YFU conducts events that bring students and parents together for fun and support.
- Your local YFU volunteer will ensure that the student is the right match for not only your family, but the school and community as well. They look for the basic traits necessary for compatibility.



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Meet students and apply online  
[www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org)

or

Call toll free 1.866.4.YFU.USA

Youth For Understanding USA  
6400 Goldsboro Road, Suite 100  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
240.235.2100 [www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org)



Youth For Understanding USA, consistent with its commitment to international understanding, does not discriminate in making its admissions and placement decisions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion or gender.

YFU USA is a designated J-1 visa sponsor by the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchanges, e-mail [JVisas@State.gov](mailto:JVisas@State.gov)

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