

2023-2024 HOMESTAY IMMERSION FAQs

1. Can we choose the destination?

Yes, you can send us the location(s) your student is interested in and we can check on that for you.

2. Must we arrive on a weekend or can we arrive midweek?

Anytime will be fine, the proper arrangements will be made with the host family. Please note the Airport Transfer location should be within two hours of the host home. If the student is traveling unaccompanied minor, there will be an additional fee added to the cost of the program.

3. If we sent two friends or a brother and a sister, what would the price be?

If the overall objective of the student is immersion in the English language and you send two individuals that can communicate in their home language to the same home, the program can be compromised. If this option is chosen anyway, we can accommodate this request. If you send us specific ages/genders/interests, our director may be able to work out a discount.

4. What does a typical host home look like?

It could be an individual free-standing home, a duplex, a townhouse, or an apartment. It will be clean, safe, and comfortable.

5. Do the students have a private room?

For individuals participating in the homestay immersion program, they will have a bedroom with a bed and internet access. It will be a private bedroom, unless agreed upon differently.

6. How many students are placed in a home?

Typically, the host family has one student, but if they are hosting more than one we will make sure that they don't speak the same language so all the communication will be in English.

7. Is there always an adult at home? What if the family members work all day?

We would prioritize families that have at least one parent not employed outside of the home, so for most of the time they would have an adult at home.

8. Do families normally have children of a similar age?

Due to the difficulty of recruiting families that meet our high quality standards, we are not able to turn down families based on type and age of their household members. Our director will make every effort to focus on recruiting as many families with children as possible. It is not guaranteed that your student will be placed with a same-aged child. Each host will do their best to provide a positive and varied experience during the student's stay.

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9. What details do we receive on the family?

You will receive a "homestay profile" with all basic information about the family including name of family members, address, e-mail, phone, their hobbies, if they have pets, etc. Also, the profile will include a family picture, a picture of the exterior of the house, and a picture of the student's bedroom.

10. What does a typical host family look like?

The host families provided by AHLI are typical American households who come from a variety of racial, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Homestays may include families or singles. AHLI does not make any guarantee about the race, wealth, age, marital status, or education level of our hosts. All AHLI homestays are with Christian hosts who will provide a safe, caring environment that will support the student personally and academically where applicable.

11. Are the students expected to attend church with the family?

The students will be included in the family activity schedule each weekend. Because the host family treats their students as a family member, they include them in activities, excursions, household chores, church, etc. We encourage the students to participate in and follow the family's schedule.

12. If the student is unhappy with their family, can they request a change? How long would this change take?

A full assessment of the situation / reasons will be conducted by our group director and, if a replacement family is warranted, the director will relocate the student in a timely manner.

13. Do students have a local coordinator they can contact if they have a problem?

Yes, they will have a designated local AHLI contact.

14. Are excursions included?

Typically no, but if you are interested you can contact us for more information.

15. What is the average cost of the optional trip to another city?

It varies based on where the student is interested in visiting and the distance to that location from their homestay location. As an example, if a student whose homestay is in PA is interested in going to NYC for a day the cost could vary from \$300 to \$500 depending on the proximity or level of entertainment the student is interested in.

16. If a participant chooses to ask for an optional day trip is this with the family or part of a group?

Everything is within the family unit.

17. What would be the maximum distance the participants should consider before asking for one of these optional full-day trips?

Since we are talking about one day, it would need to be a reasonable distance one would want to travel while making the purpose of the trip worthwhile. Perhaps the participant should present the trip idea when applying and then an interested family could be found and the price determined.

18. Can you give us some idea of the destinations for these trips for each location (Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia)?

The main cities of Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and the beaches would be accessible from many locations within each of these states. New York City could be visited in a 14-hour day, except from Virginia. Each of these states has a list of their own historical and cultural attractions.

19. What type of activities do the families normally involve the participants in?

The students will be included in the family activity schedule during their stay and it could include picnics, sports, parks, shopping, chores, church, etc.

20. Are students allowed to go out alone?

Typically, the younger students must have adult supervision. With older teens and adults, it's more flexible, as long as the host family is notified and agrees in advance of the outing. We try to encourage the students to do activities with their host families/children to get the most out of the experience while they are here.