



CultureConnect Friendship Family Program

CultureConnect Advisor Contact Info

International Programs office

[Jurate Harris, jharris@stfrancis.edu](mailto:jharris@stfrancis.edu)

[Angie Maffeo, amaffeo@stfrancis.edu](mailto:amaffeo@stfrancis.edu)

[Jimmy Zhang, junlongzhang@stfrancis.edu](mailto:junlongzhang@stfrancis.edu)

Office: Motherhouse , 2nd Floor International Suite

(815) 740-3441



What is CultureConnect Family Program?

The purpose of the CultureConnect Family Program is to bond American family with a new international student. Studying abroad and living in a new country brings several new experiences. Many of upcoming international students will face a lot of challenges inside and outside of universities. CultureConnect Family Program supports international students and helps them feel more comfortable in a new place.

Through CultureConnect Family Program, American family will be able to host international students and help them adapt to a new culture. It is an outstanding opportunity to learn more about other cultures, break stereotypes, have international experience, and welcome foreign students.

Before Hosting a Student

We encourage you to prepare before hosting a student. Here are some suggestions:

- Learn some basic information about where student is coming from
- Make student feel welcome by asking him questions about family, studying, culture, plans, hobbies, etc
- Student should fully understand when and where the next gathering takes place
- Introduce student to American lifestyle and its social customs and manners
- Invite student to your daily activities such as going to school sporting event, church, family get-together
- Some students may not be used to pets; therefore, slowly introduce pets to them
- Introduce students to your family, community and friends

Recommended Activities

As a host family, there are a lot of activities that you can offer to international students. Some ideas that International Programs Office shares with you:

- Family dinner
- Sports activities
- Movie night
- Fishing
- BBQ with friends
- Trip to Starved Rock
- Going to sporting events such as Joliet Slammer's White Sox, Cubs, Bulls, Bears,
- Sledding
- Visiting a zoo
- Visiting museums
- Attend shows and plays
- Activities in Chicago
- Cooking or baking

The Duration of Hosting

It depends on family how much time you are willing to spend with a student during a year. We hope that you stay connected with a student throughout their college career and lifetime.

General Information

- Family can host more than one student
- Some students are in the beginning stage of learning English; therefore, meeting with families is very helpful for them to practice speaking and what they have learned in school
- If religion background is very important for you as a host family, we will follow your request
- Every international student has a health insurance and please contact us in case of any emergency
- Please feel free to contact International Programs Office if you have any questions about hosting a student