7th Month (Learning Focus Area #3)

With only a few months left in the hosting experience, emphasize the most important learning points for the host family. Discuss the usefulness of intercultural learning and how members can apply it in their daily lives outside and after the hosting experience. Recognize the personal, professional and community value of hosting as an intercultural experience. These reflections may also trigger ‘a-ha moments’ when dealing with issues of global concern. During your discussions, refer to real-life issues and concerns, such as climate change, ethnic or economic conflicts, human rights, etc., to stimulate the conversations. Ask questions along the following lines:

- Have you ever discussed global issues with your host student?
- What have you noticed during these discussions? Do you share viewpoints or do you have different opinions?
- Has hosting a student helped you understand global issues? How?
- Does ‘global issue’ mean that the whole world puts the same importance on such an issue? What’s a global issue to you?
- Have you discovered global issues you were not aware of before the hosting experience?
- Have you changed attitudes or behavior vis-à-vis local issues since your student arrived? Which and why?
- What do you think is the connection between hosting a student and global issues?
- Do you think AFS as an organization (i.e. thinking not only about the programs but also the structure, the volunteer-based approach, etc.) has a positive impact on the local level AND the world at large? Why? Why not?
- What is your opinion on volunteering? (This could lead to a discussion about how much a society should rely on volunteers, the benefits of volunteers and/or professionals, how much social pressure to volunteer exists in a society, etc.)

HOST STUDENT AND FAMILY ACTIVITY

Ask both the student and the host family again to discuss these three questions:

- What was everyone’s highlight of the month?
- What was everyone’s main challenge?
- How can we better support each other with the challenges?