



# LGBTQIA+ @ AFS-USA

AFS-USA is a nonprofit organization that provides international education opportunities to foster a more just and peaceful world through intercultural understanding and global competence. In partnership with over 40 organizations in the AFS network worldwide, AFS-USA both sends U.S. students abroad and hosts exchange students from other countries.

The AFS Family represents the full spectrum of diversity in the U.S. We are dedicated to providing experiences that include individuals from all backgrounds, such as persons with disabilities and those representing all gender identities and expressions, orientations, sexes, nationalities, races, religions, and socioeconomic statuses.

## Supporting LGBTQIA+ Host Families

While each AFS host family is unique, we know that LGBTQIA+ families may have specific questions and concerns when it comes to hosting an exchange student.

- We invite, welcome, and work with people who identify as LGBTQIA+ to become AFS volunteer host parents for an international exchange student in the U.S.
- With approximately 3,000 volunteers nationwide, our local volunteer liaisons are at the heart of our mission, serving host families and exchange students through monthly check-ins and additional support as needed.
- All host families receive intercultural training, orientations, and other resources to help facilitate a successful hosting experience and a long-lasting relationship with their exchange student.

*Learn more at [AFSUSA.org/host](https://AFSUSA.org/host)*

## Pride Scholarship

In June 2023, AFS-USA relaunched a study abroad scholarship for LGBTQIA+ students

*Learn more at [AFSUSA.org/study-abroad](https://AFSUSA.org/study-abroad)*

## Resources for LGBTQIA+ host families and students

**AFS-USA and Diversity:**  
[afsusa.org/diversity](https://afsusa.org/diversity)

**International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association:**  
[ilga.org](https://ilga.org)

**Why Pronouns Matter Video**

**The Genderbread Person**

**National Center for Transgender Equality:**  
[transequality.org](https://transequality.org)

**Diversity Abroad:**  
[diversityabroad.com](https://diversityabroad.com)



**150+ LGBTQIA+**  
**host families**  
*since 2017*

"Hosting exchange students gave me and my partner the opportunity to experience the joys and the challenges of being a parent - experiences we had long assumed we'd never have. Parenting is sometimes a tough job, but it results in a new depth of skill and knowledge and, of course, lifelong memories. We've since met the parents of all of the students we've hosted, and it was fun to compare notes on 'our' children."

The Freitas-Harmon family, host parents for five students