

Sample Host Family Interview Questions

Reasons for Hosting

- Why does your family want to host?
- Which family member initiated the idea of hosting? How do other members of the family feel about hosting a student? What questions or concerns do you have about hosting a student?
- If student already selected – what did you find intriguing about this student?

Family Makeup, Interests, & Background

- Has anyone in the family been an exchange student, or hosted an exchange student in the past, either with AFS or with another exchange organization? If so, how would you describe the experience? What do you think you and/ or your family learned from the previous experience(s)?
- Will any family members be away during the hosted student's time in the home (including vacation at time of arrival)? If yes, explain who, dates away, and if this will affect hosting.
- Tell me about a "typical" week in your family.
- Who will live in the home during the time the AFS hosting experience? If blended family: How long have parents been together? What adjustments have been made?
- Tell me about your involvement in the community (volunteerism, involvement in local government, etc)
- What are the family's intellectual, physical and cultural interests? Are they pursued individually or by the family as a whole? How often? What expectations does the family have of the AFS participant regarding these interests?
- How would you describe the communication style of your family (for example, willingness to accept input from all family members, flexibility)?
- Are there any unusual circumstances in the family which are currently present or anticipated to occur during the AFS experience, such as illness, unemployment, or severe changes in economic status?
- Tell me about dinner time in your family? Weekdays compared to weekends? Who cooks?
- How does your family make important decisions, such as buying a new car or taking a big vacation?

Expectations for the Hosting Experience

- What would have to happen for you to feel that this was a "successful experience?"
- How would your family feel about hosting a student whose religious beliefs or religious practices differ from your own? What would your family expect from the student in this situation? *Note to Interviewer: Please ensure the family is clear that students cannot be required to attend religious services and note any related concerns on the host family interview form.*
- How will your AFS student get to school and school related activities? How would the family and their network of friends help the AFS participant with transportation to activities?
- What are your expectations for your student's academic performance at school? What would happen if the student's grades were not as good as you expect them to be?
- How would the family accommodate interests that the participant might have that are different than those of the family?
- What will your student do for school lunch? *Note: AFS expects the host family to provide sack lunch or lunch money for the student.*

- For what kind of things are teens in your home expected to spend their own money? How do teens get spending money (allowance, chores, job, etc.)? What personal expenses will be expected to be covered by the AFS student?
- How does your family handle cleaning the house and other chores (laundry, dishes, lawn, etc.)? What expectations do you have for your AFS student, when it comes to helping with household chores?
- What is your family's expectation about your student spending time with friends? Will you have a curfew? What would happen if a teenager in your home is late for curfew?
- What would you tell your student about how to handle teenage drinking if s/he is invited to a party and sees people drinking alcohol? What about illegal drug use?
- If there are children in the home: What kind of relationship would you like to have with your AFS sister (or brother)?
- How much flexibility would there be in accommodating a participant who is accustomed to greater independence and decision making? Would the family feel comfortable discussing these issues openly with their hosted participant?
- If the family has pets, please describe what type(s) of pet(s), parts of the house they have access to, where they sleep, and comment on any noticeable pet odor or excessive hair around the house.
- What are the family's rules regarding computer and telephone use? Would the family be able to provide a functioning phone in the home at all times?
- How would you deal with a student who spends several hours a day communicating with family and friends at home?
- How are family decisions made? To what extent do the children of the family share in the decision making? How might the family handle a child who comes from a family and/or culture where this is handled quite differently?
- May I see where will the participant sleep? Will s/he share a room? With whom? Does the bedroom that the student will use contain a window or a door that leads directly to the exterior of the home and that would provide adequate exit in the event of a fire or other emergency?
- Will the student have adequate storage for their things in their room?