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Vishvet Volunteer Host Family Guidelines

Who can become a Vishvet host family?

Vishvet Foundation allows families to reward an experience of hosting a student, children, youth, professionals, old aged people, and whole family from the world, yet it is a role that requires a lot of responsibility.

Host families are to meet the following expectations:

Before arrival to your family

- Participate in training and orientation sessions offered by the Vishvet Local Coordinator.
- Establish communication with the candidate coming to your family.
- Understand the program rules that the candidate must follow.
- Know how to contact Vishvet Support Center in case of an emergency.

During the stay with your family

- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for trust and friendship to develop between the candidate and your family.
- Support and make the candidate feel like a part of the family, with the same privileges and obligations.
- Gently encourage the candidate to learn and adopt most of the ways of your household.
- Provide room and board for the guest candidate. If you are hosting more than one candidate then all must have their own bed. If a candidate shares a room, it should be with the same gender and similar age.
- Provide a place in the home where the candidate may study in private.
- Celebrate the candidate's birthday and other special occasions.
- Provide all security instructions in case of emergency at home and should know how to contact family members, friends, and other support networks.

In case of an emergency

- Voice any concerns and questions regarding the candidate to the Vishvet Local Coordinator, including serious homesickness, difficulty adapting to family life or school, or illness.
- Maintain close contact with the Vishvet, and address problems and concerns quickly.
- Exercise supervisory and parental responsibility to ensure the candidate's well being.
- Encourage involvement in community life by introducing the candidate to neighbors, friends, and local groups.

- Teach the candidate about the local culture, and learn about the candidate's culture.
- Advise the candidate about matters related to school, family, community functions, and friendship.

How long will be the candidate live with my family?

It differs from project to project. It may range from 3 days to 1 year. Most long-term candidates live with two or three host families during their exchange.

Are host families paid?

No. It is a self interest volunteer service without any payment to Volunteer Host family. You get to experience the foreign culture and make foreign friends which are more valuable than the monetary benefit.

Be sure you are comfortable with the idea before committing to serve as a host family. If you have serious reservations, feel that you cannot meet your obligations, or do not have adequate answers to your questions, please contact a local Vishvet Coordinator.

Global Exchange Candidates

What rules is guest candidate expected to follow?

Candidates are expected to

- Learn and follow the family's rules
- Follow the local laws and customs in the host country
- Refrain from driving or operating a motorized vehicle of any kind
- Abide by Vishvet Foundation specific rules

Host families are encouraged to establish rules and expectations early in areas such as:

- Normal household routines, including meal times, bedtimes, and study hours
- Curfews
- House keys
- Emergency procedures, including phone numbers
- Local transportation
- Snacks and meals
- Religious practices
- Inviting friends home
- Phone and computer use

What challenges might the guest candidate experience during the stay?

- Homesickness
- Language difficulty
- Challenges making new friends

- Difficulty interpreting culture-specific social cues
- Host-family conflicts
- Different rules and expectations from their home

How can I best prepare to host a candidate?

Before the exchange, learn as much as you can about the candidate's culture, which may help prevent misunderstandings. Also, think about which aspects of your culture you would like to share with the candidate, such as types of food, entertainment, and local places of interest.

In addition, contact the candidate and his or her parents as soon as Vishvet provide the candidate's name and contact information. You may extend a welcome and tell them about your family. The candidate may also appreciate your input on what types of clothing to bring and information about your community.

Safety Guidelines

What safety precautions are taken?

Statement of Conduct for Working with Vishvet Foundation strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all people who participate in Vishvet activities. To the best of their ability partners and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Still Photography and Video Photography

Still Photography and Video Photography of the foreign Guest should not be taken without their permission. Unauthorized video shooting, clicking pictures, sharing pictures and videos with others is strictly prohibited. Share your homes security system with the foreign guest. Spy cameras if any fitted in your house should be made aware to the foreign guest.

How to apply to be a host family?

How do I apply to become a host parent?

Generally, host parents must complete a written application, which includes program rules and requirements, a signed compliance statement, and authorization for reference checks. Because the program is decentralized, however, the application process varies from place to place. Contact Vishvet Foundation for details.