

# Answering Hosting Misconceptions

**There are common misconceptions regarding the role of hosting or helping find host families for our 2022/2023 exchange student.**

**Here are a few.....**

*"I don't want to host so I don't need to get involved"*

As a club member, we're not necessarily asking you to host or to actually recruit or talk your friends/neighbors into hosting. Your only task could be to contact your Club Youth Exchange Officer, providing the name of a family that may be interested and qualified. (all eligible family members must be vaccinated) That person will respectfully contact the family to explore their possible interest. Submitting a [Hosting Interest Form](#) may be helpful.

*"I really don't know anyone that would be interested"*

You may not be able to immediately think of potential families, but you may be a member of a book club, a church group, volunteer in the community, and can casually mention the opportunity. You may be surprised who has been waiting to host an exchange student but just didn't know how to start the process.

*"We work full time and are too tired and busy to entertain the student"*

As a host family, your job is not to entertain the student, your job is to open your home and treat them just as one of your own. Making sure they get to school, get a good night's sleep, and are safe and healthy!

*"We don't have the perfect family"*

A variety of family structures are perfect for being host families—small, big, with many children, or no children. Working families - retired families - We aim to reflect real-world families to students, and we know that real families come in all shapes and sizes.

*"We don't have any children in the home – we can't host"*

All families are welcome, students flourish in a loving home, no matter the family dynamics. A family does not need to have other teenagers or other children in the home to make it a rewarding experience. In fact, students report creating even closer relationships with host parents that don't have students in their home.

*"My child is a senior this year and I don't want to disrupt their special year."*

Opening your home to a student while your child is beginning their transition away from the family can in fact help ready your student for living with strangers in their dorms or making new friends that aren't like their longtime friends.

*"We have family trips planned next year"*

Exchange students typically travel with their host families and love the experience of seeing new things and places. They commonly pay at least part of their expenses if not all. If you would prefer the student not travel with you, the exchange committee can arrange a short-term placement with another family.