



“My wife and I met our American friends through this program last fall. In the past year we had many memorable moments together, spending Thanksgiving at their parents’ farm, decorating Easter eggs together, cooking American and Chinese food, watching our favorite movies, and playing video games. Most importantly, we shared our opinions and thoughts on life and society. We became good friends in spite of our different culture backgrounds. This friendship is a gift and we will cherish it forever.”

- Chinese International Student

“We can honestly say that we love these friends with all our hearts. We’ve spent hours and hours talking and sharing ideas and feelings. Learning about each other’s culture. Enjoying each other’s food. Not to mention laughing really, really hard!”

- American Host Family

## Interested?

To learn more, come to the following informational meeting:

## Building bridges

### between cultures



**Developing a lasting friendship  
with an American host**

# It's hard

to leave your family, your friends, and everything familiar. To travel around the world to a new country and try to make it feel like home. To struggle to adjust to a new culture with new customs. To try to earn a degree at a university by learning in a language that's not your native tongue.

International students face lots of challenges. And over 70% of the internationals studying in the U.S. will leave having never entered an American home.

The International Student Friendship program is designed to help. It matches every participating international student with an American host. You can make a new friend and experience American culture in a new way!



Statistics from "The World at Your Doorstep," by Lawson Lau.

## What's the purpose of the program?

The International Student Friendship program seeks to:

- Introduce international students to life in the U.S. in a warm, friendly way
- Acquaint families or individuals with other cultures through personal relationships and mutual respect

## What would my responsibilities be?

To meet with your American host a minimum of once a month for one school year to enjoy an activity that's fun for both of you. That's all!

## What could I gain from the program?

- The chance to experience life in the U.S. through the eyes of an American
- A family to be a part of while you're away from home
- The opportunity to develop your language skills with native English speakers
- An enduring, life-long friendship with someone from another culture



## But I'm a little nervous about meeting a host family!

Befriending someone from a different culture might seem daunting, and you might worry about how to relate to someone from a completely different background.



Don't worry! Your American family will simply invite you into their life. You can talk. Ask lots of questions. Laugh. Share meals, both from your culture and theirs. Play games. Celebrate holidays. Visit interesting places.

Sometimes just conversation and the exchange of ideas can be more important than a whirlwind of activities, especially to a busy student! So above all, you can simply enjoy the chance to relax and feel at home with your new "away from home" family.