

HOST INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM



International

Peace through Understanding

We are the same, just a bunch of youth that want to enjoy the same activities and appreciate each other's culture. We may be speaking in different languages on a daily basis, but we should learn to respect the differences and learn from each other.

— KEVIN WILLIAMS

GIFT Student Chapter Founder and President

PTPI's GIFT Chapter in Secaucus, NJ, USA

hosted 16 students from PTPI's Milan, Italy Chapter.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL
**INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS PROGRAM**

Host Family Information

**WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS PROGRAM?**

The International Visitors Program is a cultural interaction experience in which members of PTPI's worldwide chapters are offered the opportunity to meet members of chapters in other countries and experience their way of life. This is done through Host Chapter members, who provide homestays for visitors from other countries by inviting them into their homes to spend time with them for a few days. In return, the Host Families get the chance to come in contact with people from other nations, which helps to create a mutual understanding of each other's culture.

**WHAT HAPPENS DURING
A HOMESTAY VISIT?**

Each homestay is a unique and special experience! You are welcome to communicate with your guests prior to their arrival to talk about what activities you have planned for them, as well as what they wish to do during your stay. No two homestays are the same, but here are some basic ideas about what you might expect:

- Introduce your guests to your fellow chapter members and other local people;
- Show your visitors what daily life is like in your home and community;
- Participate in recreational and cultural activities;
- Visit historical monuments or other places of interest; and
- Celebrate local and cultural holidays.

**HOW CAN I BECOME
A HOST FAMILY?**

Host Families must be members of their local People to People International Chapter. We rely on our local Chapter Homestay Coordinators to screen potential host families and ensure that we are placing our international visitors in a safe home environment. If there is no chapter in your area, you are welcome to form a chapter to participate in homestays, in addition to other PTPI programs. Please request a chapter start-up kit from PTPI World Headquarters.

Once you are a part of a PTPI Chapter, let your Chapter Homestay Coordinator know that you are interested in hosting an international visitor. Host Families are required to fill out and return the attached Host Family Application to their local chapter at least three weeks before the scheduled homestay.

The PTPI World Headquarters Office in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, receives the initial homestay request and then relays this information to the appropriate Chapter Presidents and/or Homestay Coordinators. First consideration is given to what region the Homestay Visitors would prefer to visit, but every effort is made to allow for all chapters to have the opportunity to host at least once a year.

HOSTING FEES

Visiting participants must pay a fee of \$60 USD per person per 3-5 day homestay to PTPI World Headquarters. Host Chapters receive half of this amount per person hosted. If visitors are hosted for shorter or longer periods of time, another fee may be

negotiated through PTPI. The hosting fee can be used to offset entertaining costs for the group, as a fundraiser for the Host Chapter's treasury, or in another manner as determined by the Host Chapter. The fees are the same for adults and students, and are in effect for all homestays arranged through PTPI.

GENERAL ADVICE FOR HOST FAMILIES

There is no set structure the Host Family must follow when entertaining guests from other countries. Personalities and cultures vary widely, so a formal set of suggestions would be impossible for all people and cultures. The following guidelines are intended to make the initial greeting and hosting experience comfortable for both host and guest.

Before guests arrive, Host Families should consider the following points:

- Try to familiarize yourself with your guest's name(s) so that you can pronounce it easily;
- Make an effort learn a greeting and other common phrases in your guest's native tongue;
- Obtain basic information from your Chapter Homestay Coordinator, such as the guest's name, country, and occupation or field of study;
- If possible, send an e-mail or two to your guest to introduce yourself and your family; and
- Once your guest arrives, be open to answering questions about your own government, customs, and cultures.

THE ROLE OF A HOST FAMILY

- Basic responsibilities of the Host Families include providing lodging in the home and transportation to and from the point of arrival and departure in the community.
- Each guest should have his or her own bed to sleep in.
- Host Families are not obligated to pay for visitors' meals in restaurants. However, visitors should be included when meals are cooked at home.
- Participants are required to bring their own spending money. Therefore, we suggest that anytime the family leaves the home for dinner or entertainment, the guest be advised of charges to be paid. Thus, if the guest cannot afford it, or does not wish to attend, the guest may decline without expense to either party.
- No entertainment is required, but is certainly appreciated. The visitor is to join the family in its everyday activities. Families are welcome to entertain and plan activities as they wish.
- Families should provide companionship and be interested in getting to know their visitors' interests, ideas and culture.
- If the visitor has any restrictions regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol or certain foods, it will be noted on the Participant Biography Form. If the family has restrictions, it should be noted on the Host Family Application.
- Families should know that their guests might sometimes experience "culture shock," especially if it is their first visit to a foreign country. Symptoms include fatigue, inability to speak the host language, homesickness, feelings of frustration, and lack of appetite. Families should be sensitive to this and be willing to help their guests cope with their new surroundings, perhaps with the help of the Visiting Chapter's Delegation Leader.
- Families should be encouraged to consult the Chapter Homestay Coordinator or the PTPI Homestay Coordinator about cultural, personal or disciplinary problems.



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HOST FAMILY APPLICATION

To be completed by the Host Family. This form must be completed, signed, and returned to your Chapter Homestay Coordinator at least **THREE WEEKS** before scheduled homestay visit.

The following information is needed to help us select hosts who are qualified and representative of the community. It also helps us balance the interests of the international guests and visitors to those of the host family.

Please print or type.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____
Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____
Mobile _____ E-mail _____

INFORMATION ON ALL FAMILY CURRENTLY RESIDING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Name	Age	Gender	Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

List number and type of pets, if any: _____

Does anyone in your family smoke? Yes _____ No _____

Would you permit a visitor to smoke in your home? Yes _____ No _____

List any Hobbies / Interests / Activities that you (or your family) would like to share with your visitor: _____

What other languages, if any, are known by family members? _____

How many guests can you accommodate? (one guest per bed) _____

What are your preferences, if any, of gender or age of visitors? _____

Have you ever hosted an international visitor before? If so, when and from what country. _____

AGREEMENT

As a host, I shall:

- Provide room, board, transportation of guests to and from point of arrival and departure in the community, and hospitality for an international visitor for the specified days and nights;
- Involve the international visitor in my daily activities whenever possible; and
- Extend, to the best of my ability, the principles of goodwill and understanding towards my international guest, the principles that are the foundation of People to People International.

I acknowledge that PTPI reserves the right to perform criminal background checks on host family members ages 18 and over.

Date _____ Signature of Head of Household _____

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE

By allowing an individual to become a member of People to People International (PTPI), it is PTPI's desire that such individual will promote the values of the organization and will act accordingly as an ambassador of the organization. However, by allowing an individual to become a member of PTPI and to participate in PTPI's programs, PTPI does not warrant that such individual will act appropriately. As such, and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the International Visitors Program, the undersigned agrees, on behalf of his/her family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding the undersigned's participation in the Program. In addition, and to the maximum extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby releases and indemnifies PTPI and their officers, employees, and agents from and against any present or future claim, loss, or liability for injury to person or property that the undersigned may suffer, or for which the undersigned may be liable to any other person, during the undersigned's participation in the program.

Date _____ Signature of Head of Household _____



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HOMESTAY EVALUATION FORM

Please complete one form for each homestay and return after the homestay to:

PTPI World Headquarters
Homestay Coordinator
501 E. Armour Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64109-2200 USA
816.561.7502 fax ■ homestays@ptpi.org

Host Chapter Name _____ Name of Host Family _____

Dates of Visit _____ Origin of Visitors _____

Please list successful activities and experiences of the homestay.

Please list any problems or difficulties you had with this homestay.

Please add any other comments or suggestions (use back if needed).

Thank you for your feedback!



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Kansas City, Missouri

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816.531.4701 phone 816.561.7502 fax

www.ptpi.org