

HOST A STUDENT FROM SPAIN !!



July and/or August

BENEFITS OF HOSTING:

- Make lifelong, international friendships**
- Learn more about the world from the comfort of your own home**
- Contribute to the importance of international education**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

HEATHER ESPESO

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www.unitedcultures.es



Our mission is to create positive, enriching and educational experiences for students and host families while building lasting international friendships!

UNITED CULTURES

- Is an organization dedicated to linguistic and cultural experiences.
- Provides all necessary pre-trip paperwork and legal documents.
- Is available 24 hours a day for all family and student needs.

HOST FAMILIES

- Provide room and board and a loving family environment
- Introduce the student to the American culture and speak in English to help them improve their level of conversational skills
- Share their interests with the student and include them in their daily family life.

STUDENTS

- Become an active member of the family, make friends and integrate into the community and culture.
- Bring spending money
- Come with insurance coverage as well as all legal documents

YOUTH PROGRAM

- Host a student from Spain age 11 -18 similar to your children's ages
- Become international siblings and life-long friends

Hosting is an excellent opportunity for the whole family to enjoy, learn and spend quality time together

PLEASE CONTACT:

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT HOSTING

Why Host a student from abroad? Hosting a student from another country can be a rich cultural experience for everyone involved. It gives the student an incredible opportunity to visit the United States, get to know the American culture and improve their English skills. Hosting gives the family the opportunity to bring another culture into their home, share their own culture and teach their student about American customs and holiday. Hosting is a learning experience for everyone and can result in memories and international friendships that last a lifetime!

Where are the students from? The students mostly come from Valladolid, Spain, which is located about 2 hours north of Madrid and is located in the province of Castile and Leon. Research it on the internet to find out more about Valladolid and Spain.

How long do we host? Normally for four weeks. The students will be in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio states during the month of July. If you have always wanted to host but have been reluctant to commit for an entire school year, this shorter experience may be a great opportunity for your family. We fly into the Pittsburgh airport. A few students stay into the month of August.

Are the students prepared for the trip away from home? The students (and their parents) go through hours of intensive preparatory classes and meetings before they come with the teachers responsible for bringing the students over to the US. They come fully prepared for the trip and their four-week stay in PA/NY. They know that they are expected to be a member of the family, like helping with household chores and participating in daily family activities.

Do the students come with insurance? Yes – all students come with travel, medical, and liability insurance. Their parents and host families sign all necessary legal documents.

What if the host child works? Many American teenagers work and may not be home all the time. With prior planning, your child may be able to take some time off. Otherwise you can make arrangements for someone else to be around— another sibling, a friend, a family member. While some downtime is OK, students should not be left alone regularly, as it leads to being homesick.

Must the host family speak the language? Not at all. Because the students are here to improve their English through total immersion, English is the primary language to be used during their entire stay. All students have had some English study apart from the preparatory classes.

What does hosting cost? Hosting costs only room and board. The student is treated as a member of the family, participating in daily family life and routines. Each student comes with personal spending money to cover normal teenage activities, such as gifts, movies, phone calls, ice cream shops... Host families are expected to provide a clean living environment, proper nourishment and love to their new member!

What if we are going on vacation? Once the student becomes part of the family, he or she would naturally take part in planned family outings and holidays. The coordinators request knowing the dates of travel and where to contact your family in case of an emergency.

What are the students' goals? The students main goals are to become a part of an American family, make new friends (the host family and others they are introduced to), improve their English, and get to know the American culture. This summer they will have the great opportunity to celebrate our Nation's independence day: the 4th of July!

What if we don't have a spare bedroom? Most children will enjoy sharing a room with their new brother or sister. They will only need to have space for their belongings and their own beds.

What are the advantages in hosting a student? Being a host family is a wonderful experience. It's a great way to learn about another culture and language from the comfort of your own home. Past host families have found that the experience unites them even more as a family. Being a host family is a great experience for young children to look at the world from a new perspective. Host families contribute to the understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures. The students and families establish life-long friendships, friendships that are particularly special in so many ways over the years. Hosting a family gives you the opportunity to teach and honor tolerance, acceptance, generosity, and hospitality to a child of another country and to your own children.

What information will be provided? Once you have been accepted as a host family, and a student has been matched with your family, you will receive the student's information, picture and a letter. You will be asked to write a letter in English to the student introducing your family. You will also receive a host family guidebook with helpful information and ideas.

Who supervises the program? Coordinators (teachers), Heather and Luis Espeso travel with the students from Spain and will be in touch with all families and students during their stay in the US. They will be available 24 hours a day to help with any concerns that may arise during their visit to the Pennsylvania/New York area.

Can we receive any Spanish instruction while hosting? Yes. If you host an older student or group leader, you can receive up to 5 hours of Spanish instruction a week. Ask for more information on this program.

How do we apply?

First, contact Heather Espeso, coordinator and teacher for more information.