

Rotary District 5170

Host Family Visit Guidelines

A. Prior to the Visit

1. Host Family Interview Questions: Along with the Application and information about Rotary's Youth Exchange Program; include the Host Family Interview Questions (essay response) to open up dialogue in regard to beliefs and views of the family.
2. Phone conversation: Make it clear what will take place and what you will be discussing during your home visit assessment.

B. At the Visit: These questions are some you may want to ask yourself or could be asked during the home visit to further explore answers to questions in the application & Host Family Interview:

Questions to ask yourself:

Are the hosts warm, friendly, inviting, and behaviorally appropriate?
Does the home have a warm friendly, safe and inviting atmosphere?
Is the home clean, safe and orderly? (Would you want to stay there for any length of time?)
Are all of the family members there during the interview? (You probably will need to reschedule)
What is the physicality of the family?
Are the family's interactions with each other safe and behaviorally appropriate?
Are they open and non-defensive in conversing with you about themselves and their application?

Follow up questions to the application & supplemental questionnaire:

Are there other children or adults in the home?
How do the other children / family members feel about a student staying with them?
What kind of activities does the family like to do? Are they flexible?
What are the basic house rules? Are they flexible?
What are the family routines and practices?
Where will the exchange student live while with them?
Space issues?
Privacy issues?
How will you establish communication & what will you watch for to see if the exchange is going well for the student?

More personal follow up questions:

How does your family handle discipline?
How is conflict handled? Anger? Sadness? Anxiety?
How will you maintain some level of privacy for the family and the student during the exchange?
How will you handle possible religious differences?
How is alcohol handled?

Vignettes: Utilize the Host Family Vignettes in order to have a few scenarios in mind to present during the interview of situations that may arise to see how comfortable the family may be in working with the student.

C. Next Steps:

1. The family seems to meet the Host Family criteria:
 - a. Another Rotarian needs to visit the family at least once to get a separate perspective. This helps us to get more of a picture of day-to-day life.
 - i. spread out the paperwork that needs to be completed
 - ii. drop off or pick up paperwork in person
2. If the family does not seem appropriate for the program, notify the District Youth Exchange Officer.