

**Lions International Youth Exchange
Frequently Asked Questions for Host Families**

1. Do they speak English?
 - a) Yes, they are to have a good understanding of the English Language.
2. What are the ages of the students?
 - a) They range from 16 to 20.
3. Do they have their own spending money?
 - a) Yes, they have been instructed to bring funds with them for extra expenses.
4. If we take them places, are we expected to pay for them (restaurants, theme parks, etc).
 - a) Yes, this is part of your responsibility, just as taking your own children to such places.
5. Would it be lonely for the exchange students with no other young people around?
 - a) No, not usually, as long as someone is home. This can be a positive and rewarding experience.
6. Who looks after making arrangements of the change over?
 - a) That is done by the youth exchange chair, although you may be asked to make arrangements with the other host family if that is more convenient.
7. How do we know where to take them?
 - a) I will give a schedule of what is planned for the week at camp. That way, duplicate efforts are not made. It is best to ask the youth what interest them? It may be museums, art galleries, or just the scenery in general. The malls are usually a big hit with most.
8. Do they need special diets?
 - a) Sometimes they do. Some can't eat beef or pork due to religious restrictions. The idea however is as much as possible to experience how Canadians live.
9. What types of sleeping arrangements are to be expected?
 - a) If you are hosting two youth then a bedroom with two beds is ideal however if they have to share a bed then they generally will not complain. We also keep the girls with girls and boys with boys.
10. Do I need a police check?
 - a) Yes it is normal procedure for everyone who is involved with youth.
11. Do we get to pick who we want to stay with us?

- a) Yes, however it is first come first serve. All of the applications will be available for viewing at the A-1 convention. If we have your application at the convention, you can view their profile and select your youth then. This allows the youth to know in advance where they are going to stay and communication can start early allowing you the benefit to get to know the youth before they arrive. It also adds to the excitement.

12. How many host families do we need?

- a) If we get 20 youth then ideally, 20 host families for the first session and 20 for the second session although some families prefer to have 2 youth, which reduces the amount of host families needed. You can sponsor both sessions but it is recommended that you change the students that you have during the second session.

13. Making phone calls from your home.

- a) It is highly recommended that you have the youth call home upon their arrival at your home to give the family comfort that they have arrived safely, other than that the youth should have calling cards in order to call home.

14. Can I stay in touch with the youth when they go to their next host family?

- a) It is not recommended. There have been years that the youth fit so well with their first host family that they didn't want to go to the second family. By keeping in contact with them it doesn't allow or "force" them to get adjusted. Remember the reason for the program is to experience our culture

15. What about Camp?

- a) The youth go to camp for 8 days following their stay with the last family. There will be two opportunities for the host families to visit the youth during this time period - the day the kids are dropped off there and the second last day of the kids stay. Emails will be sent out to invite everyone.