

Host Family Interview Protocols • Guidelines for the ASSIST Representative

A key tool for securing the right match between a family and a student is receiving an application and following up with an in-home interview with the prospective host family. The interview provides the school the opportunity to understand the family's home and life, to learn more about the family, and to share the expectations of both the school and the ASSIST program.

The interview must take place in the family's home, within two weeks of the application date and prior to the student's arrival. It is important at that time to meet all members of the family, pets included. To gain a better understanding of the family and their household, some possible topics to cover during your Host Family Interview might include:

- Why are you interested in hosting an exchange student, what are your expectations, and what do you hope to gain from your hosting experience?
- Who lives in the home, and what are the ages and genders of the children? Any pets?
- Where will the student sleep and study? (own room or share)
- How is transportation to school handled? (family, car pools, neighbors, public transportation, within walking distance)
- What is a typical daily/weekend schedule for the family? (church, community, leisure)
- What are the expectations for the family in terms of rules and regulations? How are decisions made?

*Please note: If the family is hosting a J-1 visa student, please attach photographs of the following: the home's exterior and grounds, kitchen, student's bedroom, bathroom, family room and living room.

Please mention to the family that they will need to submit two recommendations in support of their candidacy. Online recommendations should be submitted to ASSIST within one week of receipt. They will also need to agree to a criminal background check on all adults 18 and older living in the household, or anyone who will turn 18 during the hosting year. This measure is as much for their family's protection as it is for the student's and works to make all parties involved in the hosting agreement more comfortable.

Once the in-home interview is completed, please go to our online form at https://assist.formstack.com/forms/host_family_interview_form to complete, sign and upload the required photos.

We extend our sincere thanks for your responses and cooperation.