



WELCOME AN EXCHANGE
STUDENT HOME

Share Your Corner of America

For decades, our exceptional exchange students have shared meals, holidays, and laughter with American host families. To date, 40,000 students from more than 50 countries have been hosted in every US state. These students spend an academic year at local high schools, eagerly sharing their cultures, contributing to their new communities, and joining school activities.

Whether you live in a major city or rural community, you can offer one of these bright students an authentic and positive American experience. In return, your family will learn about the world through the eyes of a teenage ambassador, from cultural traditions to food, music, and language. Our Washington, DC-based team and a local coordinator in your community will support you along the way. Our students can't wait to meet you.

WHO CAN HOST?

Our host families are as diverse as the US population itself, including single parents, couples without children, military families, empty nesters, and retirees. Our requirements for volunteer host families are simple: you must speak English as a primary language (or agree to during the exchange) and offer a supportive environment for your host student, including a bed to sleep in, a place to study, transportation to and from school, and meals.

WHEN DO STUDENTS ARRIVE?

Scholarship student profiles are available to host families in early spring, after the multi-stage, competitive selection process. Most students arrive in the United States in mid- to late-August, and depart in June after one academic year.



It's been a wonderful journey being part of the lives of extraordinary young people who want to make this world a better place. They energize my life with their own enthusiasm and desire to learn. Volunteering with them has put us in touch with great things in our own community to help people in need. Staying in touch has enriched all of our lives through the years."

-The Peterson Family, Orlando, FL



Meet Your Host Student

Our students are exceptional. With an average acceptance rate of three percent, it's statistically harder to get into a US State Department youth exchange program than most elite colleges and universities.

Students are selected based on their English language proficiency, academic performance, teacher recommendations, leadership qualities, maturity, and adaptability.

Before arriving in the US, cultural orientations help students set expectations and identify coping strategies to use throughout their time abroad. While in the US, students build leadership skills and an understanding and appreciation of civic responsibility, diversity, and advocacy.

OUR DEDICATED STUDENTS COMMIT TO:

Enrolling in a full academic course load, including one English course and one course in US or state history, US government, or civics.

Maintaining a minimum of a B average, with no grade lower than a C.

Joining at least one leadership or service club at school or in the community.

Performing at least 30 hours of community service.

Participating in International Education Week, a worldwide celebration of volunteerism and exchange.

Following all rules, including those set by their host family and school.

Apply today by visiting: inbound.americancouncils.org

Since 1993, nearly **40,000 exchange students** have **dedicated more than one million hours to volunteering** throughout the United States.



100%

PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE



72%

RAISE AWARENESS FOR SOCIAL CAUSES



62%

HELP PEOPLE IN NEED



41%

HELP TUTOR STUDENTS



39%

JOIN COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS



17%

CARE FOR ANIMALS



13%

VISIT HOSPITALS

Programs and Supporters

A nonprofit partner to the US government, American Councils is proud to administer two large-scale US Department of State youth exchange programs. (We also run several exchange programs for American students to study abroad. Ask us for more info.) We have a core team dedicated to high school exchange students, volunteer host families, and school communities, so that every student, everywhere, has a successful year.



Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX)

FLEX was established in 1992 under the FREEDOM Support Act. A model for numerous exchange programs, FLEX has brought almost 28,000 students to the US since its inception. FLEX students today represent more than 20 countries in Europe and Eurasia.



Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)

Congress established YES in October 2002 in response to the events of September 11, 2001. To date, YES has impacted 12,000 students in more than 40 countries. The reciprocal Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad program opened for American students in 2009.



US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

ECA sponsors our students and serves as the federal government's leading advocate for international exchange and study. Through cultural and academic exchange programs, ECA increases mutual understanding between people of the US and people of other countries. These "people-to-people" exchanges are essential to US public diplomacy efforts for peaceful relations.



Council on Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET)

CSIET is a nonprofit committed to quality international educational travel and exchange for youth at the high school level. American Councils is a registered member, signaling our dedication to unparalleled, comprehensive support.



Contact our student support team:

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inbound.americancouncils.org



Youth exchange programs are sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and administered by American Councils, a nonprofit headquartered in Washington, DC.