

Frequently Asked Questions

-How do I become a host family for an international student?

Please send the following information to Rosario Lomeli at rosariol@twinnpalms.com to get more information about becoming a host family.

1. Family Name
2. Names and grades of your children in Fall of 2017
3. City of Residence
4. Languages spoken in your house
5. Experience with international student or exchange programs
6. Contact phone number and email

-What are the requirements to becoming a host family?

-Send Rosario Lomeli your information from the questions above.

-You will be contacted back by Rosario, our Twinn Palms Homestay Coordinator. She will provide all the paperwork and packet you need. You must fill out all the paperwork and submit to a background check. There will be an in-home visit to look at the room that will be for the international student.

-It is not guaranteed you will have a student for the entire 10 months. Under some circumstances, students may be moved to another home.

*Note: We need to have more families than students. You may be a family that does not get a student right in the beginning but as the year goes on, a student might be moved to your house.

Is a background check required?

Yes, by law, anyone over the age of 18 and resides in the house must perform a background check.

-When do I start as a host family?

Once you have returned all your paperwork and Rosario informs you that you have passed the background check, she will look into matching a student with your family. If you are given a student, the start date for you as a host family is August 1, 2016. There are no exceptions to this date. If you cannot be ready by August 1, you can not be a host family.

-When do I get paid as a host family?

At the beginning of the month each family receives a stipend for being a host. Twinn Palms will issue a 1099 Tax Form to all families for services provided.

-Do I provide transportation to and from school? To and from other events?

Yes, as the host family, you are in charge of providing transportation to and from school and school events. If the student wants to go to the mall, dinner, friends, etc and you are not able to drive them, a carpool works as well. Any extracurricular activities that students want to go to need to be worked out in the home under the house rules. The students are NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

-How do I get the student to be involved?

Encourage your international student to attend the club fair on campus. All dates are on the master calendar as well as told to the students. All available clubs will be present at the club fair and the students can sign up on that day.

Also, sports and the arts are a great way to get involved. Encourage your student to join a sport, join drama, dance, etc. as a way to make new friends.

Encourage your student to join in on your personal family activities. Ask your student what activities he/she enjoys doing and try to make it a family event. Most students will be very focused on studying and getting good grades and will tend to stay in their room. That is their culture. Start with something small like a 30 minute TV show or card game then go from there.

-What kind of food should I serve?

We encourage the students to try American culture food as well as share their own with you. There is more variety of meals in their culture so they might get tired of the same food if served often. Have an open dialogue with your student about what food they like/dislike. There is a great Asian food grocery store called Ranch 99 located in Van Nuys. Try taking your student there as much as possible to keep them comfortable with some of the food they are used to.

Do I have access to see my international student's grades?

Yes, you will have a separate login to NetClassroom to see their grades. They are aware that you can see their grades. Their natural parents are able to see their grades as well. We want you to be as involved in your international student's life as your own child.

What is the host family responsible for?

You are responsible for providing breakfast and dinner during the school week, and all three daily meals over the weekend. You are responsible for transportation to and from school and school events. School events include sporting events, sport practice, drama, etc. You are responsible for providing a bed, closet, and desk. Make sure to discuss house rules when the student arrives so there is no confusion.

Does the student have medical insurance? Do I have to get it for my student?

All international students at Chaminade have medical and accident insurance through Twinn Palms. All host families will receive the insurance card when the students arrive.

Do I have to pay for uniforms?

No. Payment for uniforms is included in their tuition payment. Students must let the employees at Dennis Uniforms know that they are one of our international students for Chaminade and they will keep track. Dennis Uniforms will bill the school and I will take the money out of the student's account to cover the cost. Dennis provides pants, shorts, and skirts.

Boosters provide the polo shirts, sweatshirts, and PE clothes. Payment will work the same way for Boosters.

Students get a total of 5 items from Dennis Uniforms; as well as 5 polos and 1 sweatshirt from boosters. This includes their PE uniform.

*if students want more than the 5 that is allocated, they must buy that with their own money.