



Q&A for Host Families

The PAX Exchange Program

PAX offers your family the opportunity to share your daily life with an international exchange student for a semester or school year.

Hosting is a terrific way to learn more about another country and culture. Everyday activities will take on a new meaning when you share them with a student who is eager to discover the American way of life. At the same time, your family will learn and grow as you exchange ideas and compare lifestyles. It's like taking a trip without having to leave home!

Is PAX a reliable program?

PAX is committed to providing quality educational exchanges for students and families. We are a fully accredited exchange visitor program. Details are found in PAX Facts.

Why should our family choose PAX?

The PAX program is smaller than many programs, which means our service is personal and our support is consistent. The PAX program is large enough, however, to enroll students from many countries and to have representation all across the U.S.

What are the responsibilities of a PAX host family?

A host family should be ready to share their lives with a PAX student as if this child were their own son or daughter. This means providing the student with a bed

and quiet place to study, three meals a day and with the love and support a teenager will need and expect.

Host families should be prepared to accept a student of a culture, race, religion or lifestyle different than their own.

What are the responsibilities of a PAX student?

The PAX student is expected to adapt to the host family's lifestyle and guidelines and to participate in family activities. Students are expected to help out with family chores. Students have spending money for their personal expenses

such as their own phone bill, school lunches, school expenses, movies, etc..

How have PAX students been selected?

PAX works in partnership with educational organizations around the world whose staff personally interview every applicant to determine the student's maturity and motivation. Students submit extensive applications which must demonstrate satisfactory academic performance, a minimum of 3 years of English study, a clean bill of health, necessary immunizations and good teacher references.

PAX Facts

- **An Educational Foundation** Founded in 1990, PAX has been committed from its inception to facilitating cross-cultural learning and thereby expanding international understanding. The PAX program makes it possible for international teenagers to live with U.S. host families for a semester or a school year while attending the local public high school. PAX was granted IRS status as a public, non-profit foundation in 1990.
- **State Department Designated** The PAX Program was designated an Exchange Visitor Program by the U.S. Department of State in 1993.
- **CSIET Listed** On the basis of materials submitted and reviewed, the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) granted full listing to PAX in the 2008-09 Advisory List. The CSIET mark certifies that PAX complies with the standards set forth in the CSIET's standards for international educational travel programs.
- **Responsible Partners and Guidelines** PAX partner organizations abroad are responsible for student selection, pre-departure orientation, travel arrangements and liaison to natural parents during the year. Services provided by PAX include host family recruitment, interviewing and selection, school enrollment, arrival orientation, and support and counseling during the year. Students return home after the semester or school year.
- **Local and National Support** A dedicated, reliable team of community coordinators provides local program service to all participants. PAX also has a toll-free number connecting students and families to the national office, and we maintain a 24-hour emergency service.
- **Qualified Students** PAX students come from over 40 countries, including Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Finland, France, Italy, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Taiwan and Venezuela. All are carefully screened and have 3 or more years of English study, full medical insurance, and personal spending money.

Why are PAX students interested in coming to the U.S. for the year?

Foreign students are fascinated by American culture and dream of making American friends.

Their parents consider it a priority to provide their children with opportunities to learn English and to understand another way of life.

Our language is a universal tool in the world of business and science. Speaking English is a tremendous asset for foreign students' careers, and experiencing life in another culture helps them grow in ways that are otherwise not possible.

This seems like a big undertaking. Why should our family host?

Bringing a teenager from another country into your home and your hearts is a richly rewarding experience for all family members.

Your student will learn first hand about the customs, traditions and language of the USA. You will see your own community and country through the eyes of an "outsider".

You will welcome a stranger and say goodbye to a "son" or "daughter" who will always be a part of your lives.

What happens if there is a problem?

If your student gets sick or has an accident, he's covered by full medical insurance. There is no liability to the host family.

If you and your student have a misunderstanding, you should call your community coordinator, who will provide counsel and support.

If you have insurmountable difficulties or if unexpected changes happen in your family, the community coordinator will arrange for another placement for your student.



What makes a PAX student?

Someone who is . . .

- 15 to 18 years old with at least 3 years of English study and the maturity and motivation to spend a semester or year living with a host family
- eager to experience daily life in the U.S.
- aware that the PAX program is not a trip or tour, but an academic homestay that requires work and effort and results in learning
- appreciative of the helping hand and support that will be given by the host family
- covered by full medical insurance and supplied with spending money for personal expenses.

What makes a PAX host family?

A family who is . . .

- warm, welcoming, and willing to share their daily life with the student
- interested in learning about other countries and cultures
- made up of outgoing, open-minded family members. Families can come in many ages and sizes, with or without children or teens.

For more information, call your PAX community coordinator:

Name

Telephone

or call PAX at 1-800-555-6211

Please visit us @ www.PAX.org

PAX
Program of Academic Exchange
14 Willett Avenue
Port Chester, NY 10573