

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING AMERICAN HOST FAMILIES

1. Host families need not be Rotary Families. Any qualified family within the community should be considered to host a student.
2. It is possible and often desirable to place a student with a family who has small children. However, if this is done, great care should be taken to ensure the exchange student likes small children and would fit in with the family. They are not to be used as a "handy" babysitter.
3. Exchange students are usually not be placed with widows, widowers, or single parent families. Exceptions can be made, however, after Rotary counselor interview and evaluation.
4. The exchange student may share a room. However, it is preferable for them to have their own room. As a minimum, they must have their own bed. It is important to obtain formation about the family, concerning their interests, their hobbies, the things they consider important in their daily lives. Try to match the student with these characteristics so they will have some common interests.
5. Share the student application with the family and let them review it to see if they feel the student would fit into their family, after you are convinced the family would be a good host family.
6. Once you have a family interested in hosting a student and you feel they may be qualified, before a particular student is placed with that family, ask **each member of the family** if they want to host a student in their home. Sometimes parents think this experience might be good for their own children. If the children are not interested, it will never work in the family. It is extremely important that the children are enthusiastic in this endeavor.
7. Make sure the family understands that the exchange program is an inter-faith program. Under no circumstances are they to take a student into their home with the purpose of converting that student to their own religious preference and background. The students might attend church with their host family, since religion does play an important part in our lives and church youth groups can be an excellent source of close friends for the exchange student, the exchange student should not be compelled to go to church services with the host family if they say they do not want to do so. They may prefer to select their own local church.