

# Role of the Host Family

- Provide a safe, nonthreatening, respectful, and appropriate environment in which trust and friendship between you and the student can develop.
- Support the student and make the student feel part of your family. Listen to the student.
- Maintain close contact with the host Rotary club so that any problems may be addressed and resolved quickly.
- Participate in training and orientation offered by the Rotary club or district for host families.
- Be informed of any special needs your student may have, such as dietary restrictions or medical concerns.
- Ensure the student knows how to contact the people in his or her support network, and do not feel threatened if the student feels unable to discuss problems with you.
- Voice any questions or concerns you may have about your student — even seemingly insignificant ones — to the student’s counselor or host Rotary club president or district Youth Exchange chair.
- Know how to contact Rotary representatives and community services quickly in case of emergency.
- Establish communication with your student before he or she comes to live with your family; if possible, communicate with student’s family at home.
- Provide room and board for your student. The student must have his or her own bed. If the student must share a room, it should be with a child of the same gender and similar age, if possible.
- Celebrate your student’s birthday and other special occasions.
- Exercise supervisory and parental responsibility to ensure your student’s well-being.
- Strive to understand the challenges your student is facing as he or she experiences life in a new country.
- Help your student become involved in community life by introducing him or her to neighbors, friends, and community groups.
- Teach your student about your culture and learn about the culture in your student’s home country.
- Understand the program rules applicable to the student and to your family.
- Throughout the exchange, advise your student about matters such as school, family, community functions, and choosing friends.