



## **Is there any training?**

Yes! We would prefer you complete the New Volunteer Training and a Background Check prior to hosting a student. We ask this for two reasons. First, the training equips us with information such as cultural differences, cross-cultural communication, and how to share our faith with internationals. Second, it is important we build trust and rapport with Arizona State University, as this will give us greater opportunity to reach students. One way we do this is by sharing the policies we have in place to protect students, which includes our New Volunteer Training and Background Check. We appreciate your help with this!

## **Contacting the Students**

We recommend texting your student since this is their preferred method of communication. If you call, you may need to try calling several times and perhaps at different times of the day. Keep in mind that it may be intimidating for an international to return your call. Please do not give up after one try. If after several tries you are still unable to contact and/or make arrangements with the student, please reach out to Dylan for assistance.

## **Transportation & Distance**

When you call, make arrangements for transportation. The majority of students don't have a car, so you will most likely need to pick them up from campus and bring them back after your celebration. Please communicate the expected pick-up and return times to your student. Also, we have found that students who do have their own cars are not comfortable driving a long distance to their host's home. If you live at a distance, please plan on picking the student up. We expect you to obey all traffic laws while driving students to and from the event. Plan to have a clean and comfortable vehicle for them as well.

## **What if our celebration is out of town?**

If you're going to drive a long distance from campus, please explain your plans to the student and make sure that is okay with them. If they need time to study, you might suggest they bring books and offer a quiet place at some point during the day. If the long drive is not acceptable to your assigned student, please contact Dylan. If you are planning an overnight stay, please let Dylan know ahead of time, and we will do our best to match you with a student who would like to do this. This may not always be possible.

## **Relating to an International Student**

Sometimes hosts are nervous about relating to an international. Relax and enjoy your time with the student. They will be happy to have someone welcoming them into their home. We suggest taking on the attitude of a learner and seeking to gain a deeper understanding of a new culture. You will be receiving further resources on relating to your international student via email at least three days before the holiday. Please reach out to Dylan with any questions or concerns.

## **Are there any dietary restrictions?**

When you receive the name of your student, you will also be notified of any dietary restrictions we are aware of. However, it is still a good idea to ask the student when you reach out to them. Usually, if there is a variety of food including vegetarian dishes, there will not be a problem. In general, students from Hindu backgrounds will not eat beef, Muslims will not eat pork (such as ham), and some students are vegetarians. Fortunately, turkey is a safe bet for most. In fact, many international students have never tasted turkey or seen one carved (you will have fun letting them watch and/or participate).

## **What about sharing my faith?**

At this initial stage of meeting the student, please be sensitive to the fact that they may have little or no previous exposure to Christianity. Our hope is that you will have the perspective of being part of a larger ongoing ministry to the student, as it is more likely that the students who are hosted by our volunteers will come to an IFI Bible Study. Prayerfully, over time the student will have the opportunity to build a relationship of trust with you or our other volunteers, which would be a more appropriate context for sharing spiritually. We ask that you not force a spiritual discussion, but be sensitive to the student and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Please do practice your normal family traditions such as praying before the meal or sharing what you are thankful for, etc. Take these moments as opportunities to explain what your family does and why.

## **What about contacting the student(s) in the future?**

We pray this will be the beginning of a wonderful and mutual friendship! Although not required, we hope you will keep in touch with the student. This can be through texts, calls or emails to send encouragement, let them know you are thinking of them, and ask how to be praying for them. Feel free to invite the student to your home again, go to a restaurant that serves their country's cuisine, send them cards on their birthdays, or anything else to show you care about getting to know them.

## **Thank You!**

We are grateful for your willingness to serve. We hope you will be blessed as you share your holiday with an international student. Your hospitality opens a door for an international student to be touched by the love of Christ!