



Become a Host Family

HOSTING FAQs



What does hosting mean? Hosting means you open your heart and home to a teenager from another country. You provide the same loving, caring environment for them as you do a member of your own family.

What kinds of families are acceptable? We accept many types of families: single parent families, families with children of any age, childless families and families with grown children.

What is the host family responsible for? The host family is responsible of providing three meals a day, registering the student in school, a separate bed and a quiet place to study. The STSF local LC will obtain the signed school acceptance form prior to the student's arrive to the country.

What happens if the student is ill or in an accident? Our students have their own medical insurance. Each student should have an ID card and claim forms before they arrive. STSF will help with the filing of claims.

What about spending money? The student's natural parents agree to send adequate spending money. This money should be enough for clothing, social activities, trips, school expenses, and telephone calls to their home country. Ideally, students will already have a bank account when they come over that they can access with an ATM card. Host Families can also assist their students in setting up savings or teen account.

Are we supposed to show them America? Trips are organized

and available to the students through their Regional Directors or through an STSF approved travel organization. Keep in mind that this is an academic program with opportunities for travel for students who are meeting academic standards. RDs also sponsor trips for students. More information about these trips will be given throughout the year.

What is expected of the exchange student? Our students are here on an academic program. This means, they must attend all of their classes, participate in class and maintain at least a C or above in each class. The student has an orientation that explains the rules they agree to abide by. These include obeying all local, state and federal laws. They may be immediately dismissed from the program and sent home for violation of these laws. They are expected to follow host family rules concerning family responsibilities such as chores. They must also obey curfews established by the host family.

What is the length of stay? Most of our students arrive in august for a 10 month academic stay. They must return to their home country 7 to 10 days after the last day of school. These are a few students who only come for a semester. Some arrive in January and stay until December. How do you match students to Host Families? We try to find students whose hobbies and interest match the family members. We look for common interest in the arts, sports, and religious involvement. The host Family may request a student from a country they have special interest in. We try and match as much as possible to ensure a successful experience.

Are Host Families paid to host? No, but host families receive a \$50.00 tax deduction (Charitable Contribution) per month for each month the students live with you.

What are the rewards of hosting? Your family gains a new family member. The relationship that evolves throughout your year as a host parent will last a lifetime. The focus of this program is to have host families and students learn from each other.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com.



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Mosquitoes



Mosquitoes can not only be irritating by biting, but they also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. They are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and cats, and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, Zika, dengue, yellow fever, malaria, and

filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs are laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that can be flooded by water. Eggs laid in dry locations can remain dormant for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals. Larvae molt into pupae which are non-feeding. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Since three of the four life stages of mosquitoes are in or near water, it is best to eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets, and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters,

flowerpots, and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians, and fish.

Avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours is the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves, and long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

Cypress Christian School

The ACSI District Middle School Speech Meet took place on March 8. Several Cypress Christian students, in each grade, participated in events like puppets, readings, monologues, Bible memorization and poetry. Congratulations to all of our participants! We had several gold, silver and bronze medal winners.

On March 22, CCS high school Warrior Tribes took part in a full day of school-organized community service. Some of the high school students stayed on campus working with the elementary school for their annual Tribal Wars competition. Other students worked out in the community on specific projects designed for their group. CCS students work hard to make a huge difference in the lives of others in our community and on our campus throughout this day of service.

On March 25, the Cypress Christian School National Honor Society inducted 35 new members: three seniors, four juniors and 28 sophomores. The central theme of the ceremony was "service." Students were encouraged to serve others for the glory of God.

Thursday, May 2 Cypress Christian School will host a Kindergarten Preview.

Visit CypressChristian.org/Admissions for more details.

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Recipe For Beignets

- 1 cup milk
- 3 cups flour
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- ¾ tsp. nutmeg
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ package dry yeast
- Powdered sugar



In medium saucepan, heat milk until it begins to steam. Stir in sugar and butter. Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm. Stir in yeast, salt, nutmeg and half of the flour. Stir in the egg and mix thoroughly. Cover and allow mixture to chill overnight. Knead gently and roll out on well-floured surface. Cut into small triangles or rectangles. Cover and let rise for about 30 minutes. In medium sized skillet fry dough in about 2 inches of hot cooking oil. Cook 2 or 3 at a time for about 1 minute on each side. Drain. Sprinkle heavily with powdered sugar. Makes 3 dozen.

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