

HOMESTAY HOSTING FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the fellow's daily schedule?

A: Professional fellows are scheduled from approximately 9-5 pm Monday through Friday in their fellowships or additional meetings, workshops, or trainings. Cultural activities may be planned for the fellows on some evenings and weekends. As a host, you will receive a detailed schedule of the daily program, so you will be able to know when they are starting and finishing their day. Sunday is usually reserved to spend together with homestay hosts. If you cannot be home for any reason, WorldChicago will arrange an activity for the fellow or provide suggested activities. The free day is anything you and your international visitor want it to be. Shopping is often high on their list, but so is meeting other family and friends at gatherings. It's all about experiencing America.

Q: Meals?

A: You will be expected to provide breakfast daily and most dinners. Each family is different but usually we ask that you have something in the refrigerator for them to have when they get home from meetings. If you have a special time when you eat as a family, please tell your delegate and they will arrange to join you at those times.

Q: Stipend?

A: For certain programs, WorldChicago is authorized to provide a small stipend to help defray some of the costs of hosting. This is not intended to cover all your costs, but as a thank you. Please contact the staff person associated with the project for complete details.

Q: Accommodations?

A: We can place one or two delegates in a home. Each delegate must have his/her own separate bed and access to a common or private bathroom.

Q: Transportation?

A: WorldChicago provides fellows with CTA and/or Metra Cards and we teach them to use public transportation to commute to and from your home and our downtown office.

Q: Insurance?

A: Program participants are provided with health insurance from the U.S. State Department or program sponsor for the duration of their time in the United States.

Q: Language?

A: We receive a profile about each fellow that describes their English language skills. Most fellows come with some English language skills, but others only speak their native language, depending on the program. We have placed delegates in homes where there was no common language – only dictionaries and sign language - and we have had hosts report that it can be a challenge, but not an obstacle to enjoying their hosting experience. WorldChicago will give you phone numbers of interpreters that will be available 24 hours a day for any incidental communication and emergency situations.