



Georgia  
Council for  
International  
Visitors

## GCIV International Student Hosting Program

*...building understanding and cooperation between the people of our state and the world. Our vision is that every Georgia citizen has the opportunity to become more globally engaged.*

GCIV is pleased to offer the opportunity to host students from around the world. Students are enrolled at local universities or intensive English institutes and stay anywhere from two months to a year or more.



### Why families choose to host:

Each year, thousands of families and individuals across the United States welcome international students and visitors into their homes. They share holiday meals, discuss current events, and visit local sites together. They explore their differences, similarities, customs, values, and beliefs. This kind of meaningful person-to-person interaction exemplifies citizen diplomacy and ensures that Americans and international visitors learn about each other's culture while creating lasting friendships.

Hosting an international student in your home can enrich you, your family, other household members and your community by providing each an opportunity to become better informed about and connected to the world beyond U.S. borders.

Hosts are as diverse as Americans themselves. Whether you are married or single, have children or not, are a young professional or retiree, you have the opportunity to host. As long as you and your household members are willing to open yourselves to new experiences, share your lives with an extraordinary student from a foreign land, and provide guidance, love and support, then you can create the ideal environment for an international home stay experience.



### Why students choose home stays:

Many international students recognize that home stays add unparalleled value and a unique perspective to the overall international educational experience. Host families provide a direct link to American culture and a comfortable, safe learning environment that the students can call home. What's more, both international students and their parents appreciate the structure, accountability, and support a home stay environment provides.

### Benefits of hosting and home stays:

- ❖ Home stays provide an international education for both hosts and students, with opportunities to gain a greater understanding of culture, history, geography, and language.



- ❖ Home stays help international students experience real American families-- not the stereotypes that develop from images in American television, film and media.
- ❖ Home stays are a great way for hosts and students to become involved as citizen diplomats, contributing to one's country and improving international relations.
- ❖ Hosts have a chance to make a difference by simply opening their homes, hearts and minds to create a mutually beneficial living and learning environment.
- ❖ Hosts can ensure that international students have a positive experience and take back a favorable impression of the United States.
- ❖ Committed, caring and supportive host families can assist with the success, safety, health and welfare of international students.
- ❖ Hosts are provided compensation to cover costs of providing a room and meals. Students choose breakfast only or breakfast and dinner options.
- ❖ Note: Students are responsible for their own spending money, transportation and health care.



## Why choose GCIV:

The Georgia Council for International Visitors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to "Connecting Georgians to the World" since 1962. GCIV's experience and reputation ensures a quality experience for hosts and students. We carefully screen participants while providing ongoing management and leadership for

the student hosting program. Further, GCIV works with the U.S. Department of State to develop a broad spectrum of professional and cultural exchange programs for emerging global leaders, with opportunities for participants in various tracks to interact with one another. Our non-partisan citizen diplomacy programs provide Georgians with unique opportunities to share best practices, insights, and friendship with visitors from around the world.

## How to get started

1. Both hosts and students submit applications to GCIV for approval
2. GCIV matches students with host families, carefully taking into consideration the interests of both parties
3. GCIV collects student rent payments and distributes payments to host families each month alleviating any discomfort in collecting rent (contact Joan Roberts for current rates)
4. GCIV provides ongoing management of the host / student arrangement
5. GCIV provides opportunities for hosts and students to socialize with other program participants and GCIV members

**For more information and applications, contact**

**Joan Roberts**

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