

At the end of their AFS exchange in Bolivia,
we asked some recent AFSers from the USA to answer two questions:

- ❑ What elements of your host culture, compared to US culture, did you find most difficult to adjust to in the areas of family, school and/or social life?
- ❑ Please note any advice you would like to share with AFSers destined for your host country.

Here are some of their responses:

Bolivia is a great country, with much diversity. [It is a rare] place where you can [experience] the desert, highlands, the jungle, mountains, volcanoes, plains, and valleys in a single country. The people are very nice, and helpful. Remember that everyone's experience will be different, and if you have problems be SURE to SPEAK UP. Knowing a bit of Spanish can be helpful in forming relationships with the people more easily. [This] will make the experience smoother. Keep an open-mind, have fun, and learn [a lot]. Other than that...QUE VIVA BOLIVIA!!!

Becky, Year, 2004

It was really different, but I found it fun, and interesting to adjust to the culture.

James, Year, 2004

[The] eating schedules were very different, and it took some getting used to [it]. It took a long time to adjust to certain daily activities that my host family did, but it didn't take very long at all to become a part of their family. I had a chance to see my host brother again a little while back, and there is a connection there that only comes when you are family.

Melanie, Year 2004

Figuring out what I was responsible [to due] in my house and what would be considered rude or disrespectful [was a challenge]. It's not wrong, it's not right, it's just different.

Elizabeth, Semester, 2004

