



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Becoming an AFS Host Family





About AFS-USA

2,500

International high school students hosted in the U.S. each year.

90

Countries where hosted AFS students come from to study in the U.S

5,000+

Trained, registered volunteers providing support to students and families

1,400

Schools working alongside AFS staff and volunteers to enroll AFS students.



AFS Hosted Students

- ✓ Variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- ✓ Between 15 and 18 years old.
- ✓ Community Leaders. Maintain good grades and are seen as leaders in their home communities.
- ✓ Extensive Application Process. Complete a thorough application and interview process.
- ✓ Demonstrated level of proficiency in English.
- ✓ Culturally Sensitive. Demonstrate an interest in other cultures and languages.
- ✓ Scholarship Ambassadors. Select students are part of U.S. Department of State Public Diplomacy Initiatives.





Why Host an Exchange Student?

- Enrich your family's daily life
- Introduce your family to other cultures
- Share your region of the U.S. with your student
- See the U.S. through new eyes
- Develop a lifelong connection with your student and his or her family
- Help a teenager grow into a more confident and knowledgeable individual
- Build bridges of understanding

AFS Welcomes All kinds of Host Families

- Two-Parent Households with young children, teenagers and/or grown children
- Single-Parent Families
- Couples or single people who don't have children
- Empty-nesters





What Type of Families are Needed? How Long?

- **School Year Families (approx. 11 months)** host from the student's arrival in either August or September until departure at the end of June.
- **Semester Families (approx. 6 months)** host during a school semester starting either in August/September or January/February.
- **Welcome Families (6-12 weeks)** host upon a student's arrival in August or September.
- **Emergency Families (varies)** are available on call from August through June and act as temporary families for students as needed.



What is Expected of a Host Family?

- Support. You provide the same care, support and comfort to your hosted students as you would for your own child.
- Transportation. Adequate transportation must be supplied to and from school.
- Accommodation. A single or shared room, with a bed to themselves; adequate room for belongings and clothes; access to common rooms of the house.



What Can you Expect from your AFS Student?

- Adequate pocket money for outings with friends, souvenirs and fun times outside the family.
- Attention and attendance in school where they are required to strive to do well in class.
- Adherence to rules of the house and the rules of the host family.
- Strict adherence to the rules of AFS-USA.
- Endless hours of enjoyment, learning, laughter and sharing.



What Can you Expect from AFS?

Training.

Online training, in person local orientations, and a handbook to prepare you for your experience.

Support.

A trained, registered local AFS Volunteer Liaison to support your family and your hosted student.

A 24/7 support line to experienced Staff Duty Officers in the event of a crisis or emergency.

School.

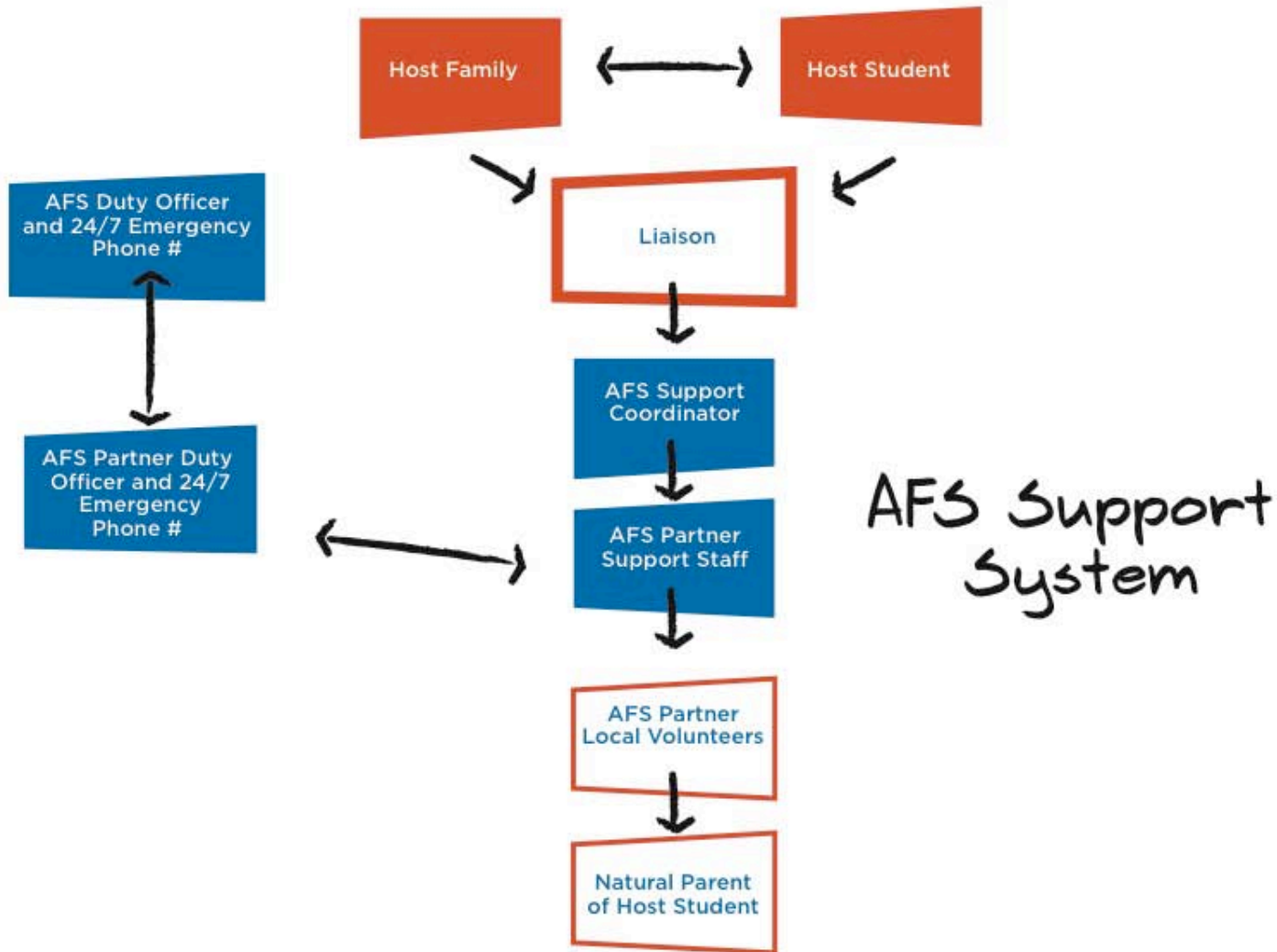
Enrollment of your student in your local high school.

Medical Coverage.

Secondary medical coverage for your hosted students for immediate treatment.



What Happens if Problems Arise?



Next Steps?

- **Submit a Host Family Interest Form** to connect with AFS in your community.
- **Contact** your local AFS Volunteer.
- **Complete** an Online Application.
- **Review** student profiles with your local volunteer.





www.afsusa.org/hostfamily

1-800-876-2377