FAQs for Hosts

1.What is the J-1 Visa Program?

The J-1 Visa is a temporary, non-immigrant visa that allows foreign national students to live and work in the U.S. as part of cultural exchange programs that promote the sharing of knowledge and cultural understanding. These are top college students with a variety of majors such as economics, architecture, engineering, and business. They work 12-14 weeks during their break from college and then they get to travel for an additional 2-4 weeks.

2.What types of positions can international students fill?

Participants can fill a variety of entry-level, short-term positions, including retail staff, waitstaff, kitchen staff, counter staff, maintenance, housekeeping, dishwashing, and ride operations.

- Must be seasonal and entry level
- Must get substantive interaction with Americans.
- Must provide opportunities to interact with U.S. citizens, practice the English language, experience the U.S. culture while sharing their own cultures with the Americans that they meet.

3.What types of careers are the students going to school for?

We have had a wide variety of students that range from Doctors, Dentists, Engineers, Architects, Accountants, Economists, and we even had a Detective! What I find fascinating is that most of the students go to school for the benefit of their country rather than for their own interest. For instance, in a country that has been ravished by war, the students would take jobs as architects knowing that the country will need help rebuilding.

4.Can the students speak English?

Yes, all students who participate in the Job Placement program must have sufficient English skills in order to participate in the program. Part of the program is speaking English during this time to improve their vocabulary. Placing students in homes with families really helps their English as well!

5. What are the requirements for their housing?

Here are the requirements for hosts and landlord rentals:

- Housing must be clean, safe, and affordable
- Housing must be within 5 miles of the student's employment
- Bed must be on a frame
- Basement rooms must be finished and have a walk-out exit
- Students come with just a suitcase so a spot to put their clothes and store the suitcase.

6. How much rent do I charge?

Rent is determined by the host and should be contingent on conditions. Hosts typically charge around $150 per week for each student.

7.Can a host have more than 1 student sharing a room?

Yes-if you have room for multiple beds or bunks than more than 1 is not a problem. We can also select students that are traveling together in pairs or groups of 3 or 4. Can also select students that have not met but end up making lifetime friendships!

8. When do students arrive and depart?

Students have pre-arranged jobs and dates of employment. They normally begin arriving before Memorial Day, continuing to arrive on a rolling basis through late June, and start leaving in mid-August through late September.

9. Which towns are you seeking host families for?

All towns on Cape Cod, from Provincetown to Falmouth.

10. As a host, do I need to supervise/parent these students?

No- These are responsible young adults that have been selected/approved for this program and they must meet a certain amount of qualifications. They are expected to act with respect to your home and family. I do recommend aligning upon arrival when it comes to the level of cleanliness that you expect as there could be cultural differences. Example: dirty dishes/cups must be washed at the end of each day and trash brought out weekly, etc.

11. Would there be a lease?

Although it is not required, we do recommend that a host writes up a lease with the student. It would be an agreement between host and student.

12. Would there be a deposit?

Although it is not required, we do recommend that the host collects a security deposit. If there is no damage, the deposit should be returned to the student at the end of the stay.

13. Would a host be responsible for providing meals?

No- students are responsible for their own meals and groceries. However, we do have some hosts that do provide a few special meals and vice versa. The student may cook for the host family to share meals from their culture.

14. Is WIFI required in my home?

WiFi is required for all homes. Students communicate daily with parents and friends back home. Some students do not buy American sim cards and use social media to contact everyone.

14. Can hosts have pets?

Of course! Most students love pets! I am sure to pair with students that do not have allergies.

15. What are my liabilities while housing a J1 student.

J1 students are required to purchase medical insurance before they arrive to the US. This is networked through the sponsoring organization.

16. What would I get out of being a host?

Hosting is an extremely rewarding experience for the entire family. It also provides companionship which makes it very popular to hosts that are empty nesters or elderly. You learn so much about the world by talking with these students and learning about their culture. They essentially become a part of your family for a few months. Most hosts stay in touch with their students long after their stay!

Beyond the personal gains of hosting, is the monetary reward!

17. Who do I contact if I have an issue with my J1 student/s?

All J1 students have paperwork from their sponsoring organization. Make copies of sponsor contact upon students arrival. Report any issues to their sponsor.

All questions and concerns should be addressed to the sponsoring organization **unless they involve the health or safety of a participant**. **Sponsors are required to maintain monthly contact with each student, as well as provide 24/7 toll-free help lines. Sponsors actively protect the health, safety, and welfare of program participants, and take seriously their role facilitating experiences that will improve the image and influence of the United States abroad.**

If the issue involves health or safety, contact the State Department at any time via the hotline 1-866-283-9090 or at jvisas@state.gov.