

Become a Host Family with AFS

Now's The Time to Welcome an Exchange Student!

Sharing daily life with a teenager from another country and culture is a rich and rewarding experience, and it's a wonderful way to bring more understanding into the world. If you've ever thought about welcoming an exchange student into your home and family, now's the time to [learn more](#).

http://www.afsusa.org/usa_en/focus_on/hosting

AFS, the leading international high school student exchange program, needs families in our community to host high school students. All kinds of families can host: two-parent households with young children or teenagers, single-parent families, families with adopted children, foster parents, as well as couples and single people who do not have children or who have grown children. One of the most important characteristics of a host family is being eager and excited to share your life and activities while providing the same kind of care, support, and comfort as you would to your own child or family members.

To find out more about hosting, submit a [Host Family Interest Form](#),

*http://www.afsusa.org/usa_en/link/5785 call **1-800-876-2377**, email hosting@afs.org or give **Lynn***

Adams, Hosting Coordinator for Washburn AFS a call at 373-2618 or email

leadams@centurytel.net

Dear Washburn families,

Families in the Washburn High School district opened their homes to host six AFS students this year from Columbia, Germany, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Russia. During the past few years Washburn has hosted around five or six students a year from around the world. Our chapter is now recruiting families who would like to host for the next school year, 2010-2011.

To achieve our goal of finding the best match of a student with a family we start with determining what type of student the family would like to bring into their home. A family who thinks they would like to host gives the hosting coordinator, Lynn Adams, some key words to search for in the student biography online database. This may be something like "plays soccer" or "skis" or "likes to sing" or comes from a particular country or region of the world. The family is then given photos and short biographies of students who match their preferences. Host families can then request more information on the students they would most like to host before making their choice of exchange student.

The advantage to this new system is that there are more students for families to choose from this year than in previous years. With the good also come a few challenges. Once a family selects a student to host they will have only four days to make a commitment to taking that student. If the family doesn't decide to commit within four days, that student will once again become available to any family wishing to host him or her. It is in the best interest of the families to choose an exchange student early in the year in order to have the largest number of students to select from.

Please let me know if you want to be considered for hosting next year. Remember that you are just expressing an interest. It is not a commitment at this point. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Lynn Adams

Washburn AFS Hosting Coordinator