



Friendship Partner Program for International Students

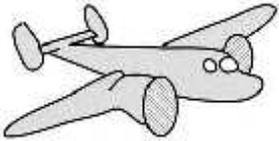


But I'm a little nervous about meeting a host family!

Befriending someone from a different culture might seem daunting, and you might worry about how to relate to someone from a completely different background.

Don't worry! Your Canadian will simply invite you into their life. You can talk. Ask lots of questions. Laugh. Share meals, both from your culture and theirs. Play games. Celebrate holidays. Visit interesting places.

Sometimes just conversation and the exchange of ideas can be more important than a whirlwind of activities, especially to a busy student! So above all, you can simply enjoy the chance to relax and feel at home with your new 'away from home' family.



It's hard to leave your family, your friends, and everything familiar. To travel around the world to a new country and try to make it feel like home. To struggle to adjust to a new culture with new customs. To try to earn a degree at a university by learning in a language that's not your native tongue.

The Friendship Partner program is designed to help. We match one or two students with a local individual or family who has lived here for some time.

You can make a new friend and experience Canadian culture in a new way!

What's the purpose of the program?



To introduce students to life in Canada in a warm, friendly way.
To acquaint families or individuals with other cultures through personal relationships and mutual respect.

What would my responsibilities be?

To meet with your Canadian host a minimum of once a month for one school year to enjoy an activity that's fun for both of you.

What could I gain from the program?

The chance to experience life in Canada through the eyes of a Canadian.
Your Friendship Partner can also answer many questions you might have about Canadian life and values, politics, or religious beliefs.
Having a Friendship Partner does not mean a huge time commitment; we all understand you are very busy. However, through your Friendship Partner, you will be able to get a more accurate sense of what Canadian life is like and, often, develop long term friendships in the process.

How to Sign Up



To participate in the program please complete the questionnaire on the back. The information you give us on this form will assist in matching you with a Canadian Friendship Partner. Your commitment to each other is for one year. It may be renewed annually by mutual consent. Activity during the summer is optional as people are sometimes away on travels. There is no cost for this program.

◆ Please contact the London City Leaders listed below and return the application to them.

The Leaders will speak to you further before making an assignment and give you an orientation.

For more information contact: **Stuart & Mary Smith (226)289-5040**

Or email: stuart@ismc.ca or mary@ismc.ca

Orientation for Students to the Friendship Partner Program

The First Contact:

The Friendship Partner Coordinator will arrange how the contact is made and inform you. It may be through one of FOCUS Club's Social Events that you and the Friendship Partner attend, or through an email to both of you, or a meeting at a coffee shop. Feel free to contact the Coordinator with any questions or if you are wondering what is going on.

What will the host family expect of me?

The most important thing that you can do as a participant is to communicate. Also it is important to make the time for the host family that is assigned to you. Otherwise they might get discouraged and stop trying to contact you. Please respect them as Family. If you want to drop out you must let the Coordinator know so another student can benefit.

The First Visit:

1. The Friendship Partner will usually come "pick you up" in their car at your home, dorm or bus stop.
2. It is not Canadian custom, but if you want, you can take a small gift the first time.
3. Be on time. If you will be late, call your Partner to inform them.
4. If plans change and you cannot meet them, call as far ahead as possible.
5. It is OK to ask them what time an event will end.
6. Dress is usually informal, but you may want to ask your Friendship Partner.
7. Do not take a friend. In the future you might be invited to do so.
8. If foods are served that you do not like or that you cannot eat, you do not have to eat them. The same is true with alcoholic beverages.
9. If you are not sure of table manners, just watch your host.
10. Most Canadians do not like people to smoke in their home. You could ask their permission to smoke, but it is best to excuse yourself to smoke outside.

Continuing the Relationship:

- Friendship Partners are asked to see their students once a month. If that is too often it is OK to tell them, as long as they know you want to see them again when you have more time. You can call them and talk on the telephone or e-mail them.
- Friendship Partners like their students to call them as long as it is after 9.00 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m.
- It is helpful to tell your Partner when the best time is to call you.
- Please inform your Partner if you move or change your phone number.
- If your Friendship Partner does not call you for a long time, you can e-mail the Coordinator.
- You can invite your Friendship Partner to campus events or to your home for a meal.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas are family holidays. Your Partner may invite you to their home for these days. It is a special part of Canadian culture that you will not want to miss.
- If your Partner should move or you cannot continue with your relationship, please email.
- Enjoy yourself, learn as much as you can about Canadian Culture and make friends that can last you a long time.
- At the end of the year the Coordinator will meet with you again to determine if the relationship will continue in this same way or another student will be given the chance to have a Friendship Partner.