

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Reed College Host Family Program



"The relationship that we share has been an essential part of my transition to Reed College, and it is also one of the most valuable experiences that I have shared throughout my time at Reed."

—Javed Parkes, Jamaica

REED COLLEGE



Host family bowling night

The Host Family Program

Every fall Reed welcomes approximately twenty degree-seeking international students, ten foreign exchange students, and eight language scholars to campus.

These students and scholars come to Reed to learn and grow through experiences in the classroom and on campus. Many, however, also want to learn about U.S. culture through personal experience with the politics, economics, geography, culture, and people of the local community.

The hospitality of a local family gives a multidimensional view of life in the U.S., provides support, and helps to overcome the isolation of life on campus. Experiences outside the classroom and beyond the residence halls are an illuminating and important part of an international student or scholar's stay.

The host family program, coordinated by International Student Services (ISS), offers a mutually rewarding relationship between a local family and a foreign visitor, giving each the opportunity to learn from the other.

"Hosting has been a wonderful experience. [Our student] is basically a member of our family now."

—Willie Koo, host

What is a host family?

The term *host family* can be somewhat misleading. Reed's international students and language scholars live on campus and therefore there is no expectation that host families will provide room and board.

Instead, host families act as a liaison between international visitors and the community. The relationship begins when families welcome students and scholars to Portland by picking them up from the airport, bringing them to campus, and helping them settle into their residence halls. Then, during the school year, ISS organizes three structured on-campus events to bring international visitors and their host families together as a group.

Outside of these activities, the program allows the relationship between a student or scholar and a family to develop organically. We do request that families connect in person with the student or scholar monthly.

Typical activities include

- inviting the student or scholar over for dinner;
- sharing holiday celebrations;
- introducing the student or scholar to many of the wonderful activities that are available in the Portland area.

There is no “right” way to be a host family, but making contact on a regular basis and simply spending time together is an important part of having a successful experience.



How to Become a Host Family

ISS believes that finding a good fit between a family and an international student or scholar is important. The process of becoming a host family is as follows:

Ongoing: host family applications received and screened

Early June: host families receive student bios

Mid-June: host families return student preference list

Early July: host families receive student match information

Mid-July: students and families make initial contact

Late July/Mid-August: new host family orientation session

Mid-late August: students and scholars arrive

Late August: first organized event, during International Orientation



"We just had our first Reed international student come back for his 10th reunion. He and his wife stayed at our house. Another one of our Reedies, from India, graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School last year. She has all of her holiday meals (and more) at our house. Another German student of ours, sends me an email every year on my birthday. It goes on and on. Hosting was a great experience for us."

—Mike Parr, host

More Information

To obtain a host family application or learn more about the program, please contact the International Student Services office.

>>> 503/517-5538
 iss@reed.edu
www.reed.edu/iss/

Where do Reed's international students and language scholars come from?



Argentina	Canada	France	Italy	Morocco	Russia	Thailand
Australia	China	Germany	Jamaica	Nepal	Saudi Arabia	Turkey
Bahrain	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Japan	New Zealand	Singapore	United Kingdom
Bolivia	Croatia	Hong Kong	Kenya	Nigeria	South Korea	Vietnam
Brazil	Cyprus	India	Malaysia	Philippines	Spain	Zimbabwe
Bulgaria	Egypt	Ireland	Mauritania	Republic of Macedonia	Switzerland	
Burma (Myanmar)	Ethiopia	Israel	Mexico		Taiwan	