Homestays are a popular accommodation option for international students because it provides the nurturing environment of a family home, an American cultural experience and the opportunity to practice English outside of the classroom.

**OPERATION OF THE HOMESTAY PROGRAM:**
Depending on the TALK school, the program may be run by TALK staff, an outside company or a combination of the two.

**HOST FAMILIES:**
All our host families are carefully screened and qualified before being able to host TALK students.
The families are as diverse as Americans themselves, with varying ethnic and racial backgrounds and families structured in traditional and non-traditional ways. Families include married couples with kids, a professional single parent, an older couple, a working mom or a stay-at-home dad – the variations are endless!

**HOST FAMILY OBLIGATIONS:**
- To provide a fully furnished, clean and comfortable private or shared bedroom with quiet study space.
- Linens, towels, and bathing and eating areas
- Internet access
- Laundry facilities and all utilities

**TRANSPORTATION:**
Commute times between your host family and your TALK school can be up to one hour. Your host family will explain how to use public transportation. Maps, taxi numbers and bus and train schedules will be provided as needed.

**SMOKING:**
Smoking is not allowed in homes. You may smoke outside of the home with permission.

**ALCOHOL:**
If you are 21 or older (the legal age to consume alcohol in the US), you may drink alcohol subject to your homestay family’s alcohol consumption policy.

**STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:**
- Be courteous and respectful to all members of the host family
- Communicate with the family members and get involved in family activities
- Participate in family chores
- Be respectful of your host family’s rules, routines and customs
- Ask permission before inviting a friend over
- Keep room, bathroom and other areas used tidy and clean