



## Live with an American family and practice your English

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!

### BOOKING, DURATION OF HOMESTAYS AND ARRIVAL TIMES:

Homestays must be booked at least 4-weeks in advance. Homestay periods can be of varying lengths. Homestays begin on the Sunday prior to the course start date and end on the Saturday after the course end date. There is a charge for additional nights of stay.

Students must arrive at the host family home between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

### FOOD:

Students may choose from two options: breakfast (7 meals per week) only or breakfast and dinner (14 meals per week)

#### BREAKFAST:

Many host families have students “help themselves” to the breakfast food in the kitchen. This might require students to prepare their own morning meal. Hosts typically provide cereal, toast, fruit, milk, juice and coffee.

#### DINNER:

Host families generally eat dinner together at a specific time. There is no specific menu the host family is obligated to provide, so dinner menus will vary from one host family to another.

### 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.

**Note:** Most states and cities in the United States ban smoking in public places and buildings, airports, restaurants and bars. In some states, public places include outdoor spaces such as beaches, parks and plazas.

### 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.

**Note:** Bars and restaurants are required to see the customers driver's license or National I.D card before serving alcoholic beverages.

### 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