

GUIDANCE FOR HOSTS

Without home hosts there would be no GSE Program. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every Rotarian who has agreed to host a team member and also every other person who has welcomed and greeted the team and bestowed hospitality upon them.

We would like the team members to be treated no differently to any other family member, because in that way they get to experience one of the objectives of the exchange namely, the knowledge and feeling of being a part of the Australian way of life, the cultural side of Australia. To help the team feel at home, we offer the following hints:

1. The most welcome question from any host family is "Can we do some laundry for you?"
2. Try to organise for the team to meet and spend some time with friends and family outside the Rotary circle. Only that way will they experience a diversity of Australian lifestyles and social contact.
3. Where possible, try and make the team familiar with your business, so they can observe the economic side of Australian life. Discuss our social problems and learn about theirs.
4. Talk slowly and avoid using slang and colloquial terminology. Yet teach the team Australian idioms and words and phrases.
5. Do not be too lavish in the quantity and nature of the food you serve to the team. Remember they will do a lot of eating and may be diet conscious.
6. Quite often, all the team member craves is a quiet night at home with the family.
7. Talk to them to find out what their interests are and if hosting on leisure days ask the team member first if he/she would like to do anything in particular. Remember they will be polite and may not be prepared to refuse invitations. So ask first.
8. Don't forget tomorrow is probably as busy schedule for them. Therefore, try to allow the team member as much sleep and time to themselves as possible. Adequate rest is essential to them.
9. Allow the team member time for personal matters, such as banking, letter writing, emailing, visits to hairdressers or just sleeping time.
10. Punctuality is important, especially in the mornings when they have to be at a particular rendezvous at a particular time.
11. Help the team member with communications to their home. Limited use of a phone, fax or email will be appreciated, as well as providing post packs, boxes etc for mailing material and souvenirs home.
12. If the team member has a complaint or you hear of a complaint by or about a team member, please let the District Committee know as quickly as possible so that something can be done about it.
13. Where the program indicates "Rest Day" that is exactly what it means. Please respect the team members need to recuperate so they can continue to cope with a very busy program. Don't schedule any activities on a rest day or in conflict with their daily programs.

Unless otherwise stated in the team's itinerary, team members are usually not with their host families for lunch. Host families should plan to serve breakfast each morning and dinner each evening (except when other evening functions, including dinner, are planned for the team). Be sure to serve breakfast early enough so that the team member can be available in time for the morning's first engagement; make similar plans for after dinner engagements.