

SHORT TERM CULTURAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY

# HOST FAMILIES

# NEEDED



**Astar Education Institute is an educational non-profit organization focused on cultural exchange. We are seeking families to host an international exchange student from China in a short term exchange.**

**Dates: January 22 - February 1**

**All families who participate will have the opportunity to travel to China for 2 weeks this summer with sightseeing, hotels and meals paid for as part of another short term exchange program.**

**CALL 703-368-6838 ext. 21 or email  
carly@astarinstitute.org**

**ALL HOST FAMILIES WILL BE COMPENSATED**



## Host Family Frequently Asked Questions

*We understand when a family considers opening its home and heart to an international exchange student there will be a lot of questions that will be asked. Here are just a few that have been asked most often:*

### **How will our family benefit by hosting an international student through Astar?**

There are many reasons why hosting is a wonderful experience for the whole family. You and your family have a chance to learn about another culture and language – all in the comfort of your own home. You have the opportunity to start a life-long relationship with your new “son” or “daughter,” and when your student returns home you will have a special friend in another country. Members of your family will feel closer to each other through sharing your daily lives with an international student. Your son or daughter will gain a global perspective of the world – learning more about geography, communication and international cultures. If your children are young, they will love to have a big brother or sister from another country. Most of all, you will all have a lot of fun.

### **What are the requirements for being a host family?**

Host families are as different and diverse as Americans themselves. They come from all ethnic, racial and economic and religious backgrounds. They live in cities, small towns and rural communities. Your open home can serve as a supportive environment for our exchange students adjusting to a new culture.

Host families will be expected to host from January 22 until February 1, 2018. Each host family must provide:

1. A bed for the international student to sleep in. It doesn't have to be a separate room – students can share a bedroom with a same-sex child.
2. Access to a bathroom - it is okay if it is shared with other family members.
3. 3 meals a day on weekends and only 2 meals a day on weekdays since students will eat lunch at the school.
4. Transportation to and from a local high school on weekdays.

\*\*Host families are NOT responsible for transportation to and from the airport.

### **Will our international student speak English?**

All of our students who come to the US have studied English for five years or more in their home country– practicing both written and spoken English. The students participating in this upcoming camp are from one of the best schools in their province. The students are part of an international program at the school so their English will be very good!

### **How much does it cost to host an international student?**

There is no charge. The only expenses for your family will be the costs of including another person in your regular activities, including meals. Astar will offer a paid stipend of \$200 for each student hosted. This will help offset some of the basic hosting expenses.

### **Are we responsible for our student's medical bills or spending money?**

No, not at all! Astar students are fully covered with medical and accidental insurance once they enter the US. The insurance card with policy information will be sent directly to you as a host family member prior to the student's arrival.

### **What will happen if we have problems while hosting?**

At Astar we believe in sustaining an environment for students and family members to feel safe to discuss what is troubling them. We partner with host families to resolve conflict. Our representatives will do their best to help you resolve any difficult situations that arise during the program. While we don't anticipate any major crisis, if the situation is severe, please don't hesitate to call our office directly or 24-hour afterhours phone number. Our office can issue severe warnings and any students with severe behavior issues will be removed from their host family for the remainder of the visit if needed.

### **What is the purpose behind the winter international exchange student program?**

Astar began in 2006 as an educational non-profit. Astar was founded with the purpose of fostering good relations between the US and China. Astar Education Institute wanted to offer the two countries an opportunity to

## HOST FAMILY APPLICATION FORM

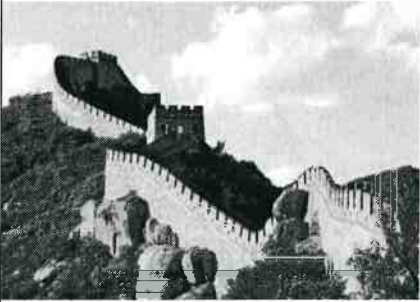
### General Information

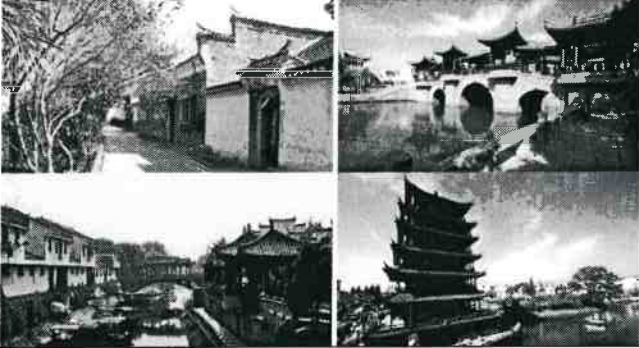
Mother			Father	
Name:			Name:	
Date of birth:			Date of birth:	
Home Address			Home Address (if not same)	
Phone:	Cell:	Phone: (if not same)		Cell:
Email:			Email:	
Occupation:			Occupation:	
Have you ever been convicted of a crime or felony (If yes please explain):			Have you ever been convicted of a crime or felony (If yes please explain):	
Child/Children Name	DOB	Sex	Grade in School	Living at home?
Primary language spoken at home:			Other languages spoken:	
Are you available to help with carpooling to activities?			I can host <input type="checkbox"/> boy <input type="checkbox"/> girl <input type="checkbox"/> either I can host <input type="checkbox"/> 1 student <input type="checkbox"/> 2 students <input type="checkbox"/> 3 students Other _____	
Would you accept a vegetarian student?			We live in a: _____ (Single House, TH, Apt)	
Is the student going to share a room?			If yes, who with?	
Do you have pets?			If yes, what kind(s)?	
Does anyone in your family smoke? If yes, where? <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Both			Interests/Hobbies:	
If selected as a host family, do you agree to treat the student as your own son or daughter and to provide appropriate parental supervision?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Authorization				
Host Mother:	Signature:			
	Date:			
Host Father:	Signature:			
	Date:			




Astar Education Institute

12-day Summer Exchange in China  
(Beijing, Anhui & Hainan)

Schedule	Morning (08: 30-11: 30)	Afternoon (14: 00-18: 00)	Night (after 18:00)
Day 1	Get yourself read for this unforgettable China Trip. Departure for Beijing!		
Day 2	Arrival in Beijing; pick up from the airport. Then go to the hotel. After a short rest, you will be taken to a delicious local Chinese restaurant for dinner. Afterwards you will see the beautiful evening of Beijing.		Stay at Beijing Longding Hotel
Day 3	After breakfast, start from the world's biggest square located in the city centre, <u>the Tiananmen Square</u> and take a look at <u>the Monument to the People's Heroes</u> . Then visit <u>the Forbidden City which</u> the world's largest royal palace. After that go to <u>the Temple of Heaven</u> .		<u>Evening Watch an Acrobatic Show;</u>  Stay at Beijing Longding Hotel
Day 4		After breakfast, take 2-hour bus to <u>Badaling Great Wall</u> , one of the eight wonders of the world, climb onto it and as the saying goes, "He who doesn't reach the Great Wall is not a true man." Then go back to the city, visit <u>the Olympic Park</u> where the 2008 Olympic Games took place.	Stay at Beijing Longding Hotel

Day 5	End the trip in Beijing by visiting the “Harvard in China”, <b><u>Beijing University</u></b> . Then go to the train station and take the high-speed rail to <b><u>Hefei in Anhui Province</u></b>	Arrival in Anhui; pick up from the train station and have an opening ceremony	Stay at the student’s house you host at your house from Jan. 22 to 31, 2017.
Day 6	After breakfast, take a bus to <b><u>Sanhe Ancient Town</u></b> . Learn how to make a traditional dish, Sweet Lotus Root and enjoy the special food of the town. Then play a <b><u>Treasure Hunt</u></b> in the town.		
Day 7	After breakfast, take a bus to <b><u>the Daxu Farm</u></b> . Pick the fresh fruits. Enjoy the traditional meal of the farm. Spend the day with the host family and take a tour in the city. A Farewell Party. American and Chinese students offer Talent Show!	<b><u>Have a barbecue and campfire party</u></b> Stay at the host family	
Day 8	Take flight to <b><u>Haikou in Hainan Province</u></b> . <b><u>A welcome class:</u></b> learn how to greet in Chinese, exchange gifts to each other and have a self introduction.	Visit <b><u>the tropical Wildlife Garden</u></b> , learning about the specific wildlife in Hainan.	Stay at the host family
Day 9	<b><u>An English class:</u></b> American students teach basic English conversation and American manners;	<b><u>A culture class:</u></b> Chinese students teach traditional handcrafts like paper cutting. Play beach volleyball. Have a barbecue at the beach.	Stay at the host family
Day 10	American students teach pop dance; learn Wushu, Taiji and Chinese calligraphy	Visit <b><u>the Feng Xiaogang’s Film Commune</u></b> which was officially set up on Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup> in 2012. Experience how to make a movie	Stay at the host family

Day 11	 <p>Take bus to <u>the salt pond</u> which has a thousand years' history. Then go to visit <u>the Karst Caves</u>.</p>	Closing ceremony Stay at the host family
Day 12	Fly to Shenzhen and then take a bus to Hong Kong. Say goodbye to China and fly to sweet home.	Arrive in DC and meet your family.

\*Note: This itinerary is only for reference. Specific arrangement would be made according to the real situation.

Please contact Carly Palmer at Astar Education Institute for details.

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