

BEING A HOST FAMILY



Welcoming an international student into your home is a great way to learn about a new culture and share your own culture and values. Children often enjoy being cultural ambassadors, introducing their new brother, sister and parents to local customs, traditions and national holidays. Everything from preparing meals to sightseeing are opportunities to discover and appreciate cultural and other differences.

AFS is a leading student exchange and study abroad programme, supported and monitored by trained staff and volunteers. Since 1947, AFS has prepared young people with practical skills, knowledge and more, the attributes needed to compete in a global world.

Participants come to South Africa on a range of programmes; so you could welcome someone into your home for two months or ten months.

Supported by dedicated volunteers and staff, host families help students navigate their new school and community, make friends, learn the language and enjoy their year abroad. Sharing culture and traditions helps families bond, creating lifelong friendships.

Host families welcome their AFS student to participate in their family's daily lives and events; and provide the same care, support, and comfort that they provide to other members of their family, including meals.



All types of families are encouraged to apply; there is no "typical" AFS host family. Some AFS families have children at home; some are same sex couples while others are empty nesters with adult children or are couples with no children at all. Single adults and single parents are also welcome. Even busy families find time to enjoy hosting students!

Being an AFS host family provides a fun, rewarding and transformative experience for the whole family – a global family adventure without leaving home.

AFS host families share cultures and learn about new cultures – creating a lifetime of memories and friendships. You and your family will have friends to visit in another part of the world.

Hosting encourages families to open up their minds and gain better insights into the perspectives of people from other cultures.

For more information about the programme and what it takes to be an AFS host family, please go to www.afs.org.za/host-an-afser call 011 431 0113 or email unathi.sophazi@afs.org