

International Friends of Pittsburg  
PSU Host Program for International Students

**Host Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special interests?

\_\_Sports (active participant) or \_\_\_\_Attending sports activities

\_\_Indoor activities (cards, chess, Ping-Pong, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Outdoor activities (picnics, hiking, biking, fishing, gardening, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Sightseeing, shopping, photography, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Musical, theatre, movies, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Children? \_\_\_\_ Pets? \_\_\_\_

Do you have any preferences for your assignment?

Male? \_\_ Female? \_\_ 1 or 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality preference? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any limitations you want us to know about?

Any other information that will help us make a good match for you?

Please return form to: Cynthia Pfannenstiel/ Axe Library/ Pittsburg State University/ Pittsburg, KS 66762

## An Open Invitation to Potential Hosts for PSU International Students

We are seeking volunteers for to be hosts for new PSU international students. International Friends of Pittsburg sponsors the host program for the new international students from PSU. The program has been in existence since the 1960's. Pittsburg and PSU has a solid tradition of welcoming our students from countries across the world.

Our host program provides new international student with an American contact to help with questions about our style of life and to provide a friendly face to turn to, especially during the first weeks when everything is new and overwhelming. There are absolutely no financial or housing requirements.

Hosts can help with the problems of homesickness and culture shock which occur as a student tries to adjust to new food and a different lifestyle, as well as a foreign language and different behavior standards. Most of our international students are very family oriented and appreciate being able to come to your home to share a meal or an evening with you. They also appreciate celebrating holidays and important days such as birthdays with someone who can substitute as their "family."

Many of our students spend 2-3 years here in Pittsburg and never visit an American home or attend a community event. They are eager to meet Americans and learn about American culture and ideas. They also are eager to share their culture with you. It is fun to share a meal and have American food as well as food from the student's country.

The benefits from hosting a student are definitely mutual. Becoming acquainted with a student from Thailand or India and learning first hand about their family and their life is vastly different than the general stereotypes and newsbytes we see and hear. And, the international student's view of America is largely based on American TV and movies.... not exactly the way most of us live.

We warmly welcome you to try being a host. Fill out the attached form assigned a student. We believe you will find it personally worthwhile and will find that your view of the world will change. Most important your student will go home with warm memories of student life in Pittsburg.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our invitation to become a host.

Sincerely,

The International Friends of Pittsburg Board

Ben Peters, Linda Stotler, Nelda Allen, Carol Zubrickas, Pat Kirkpatrick, Cheryl Mayo, Judy Bay, Melody Denny, and Cynthia Pfannenstiel



## International Friends of Pittsburg

### **Expand your world .....be a host to a new international student**

Do you like to travel (or dream of traveling) to faraway places? Do you enjoy learning about different cultures or conversing with people from other countries? Or do you simply enjoy our international students? If you can say yes to any of the above, you would enjoy being a host to a new international student.

Every semester 50 to 100 new international students arrive at PSU. They come from Asia, Africa, South America, and occasionally Europe. Many of these students ask for a host.

Hospitality and friendship are your only obligations. Spending time together at least once a month is your only commitment.

Shared activities can include meals, cooking together, shopping, sightseeing, movies, TV, PSU events, holiday and birthday celebrations, plays, walks, attending sports and local events and more.

You will benefit...making a friend from another country gives you insight beyond being a tourist. It is a genuine experience. You have a personal tour guide.

The students benefit...they appreciate knowing someone who is their friend and can help them understand their experience in the U.S. and in Pittsburg, Kansas. They are eager to learn about us and what we think. They appreciate having a “family” 10,000 miles from their home.

*Fact: In later years, the strongest memories international students have of PSU will be their experiences with their “host family.”*