

Friendship Partner Program

Guidelines & Responsibilities for Students

1. The Friendship Family program is a visitation program for international students attending South Dakota Mines. It is not a homestay or live-in program.
2. Students and families are matched for a period of up to one academic year. Although the relationship may continue well beyond that year, we hope families will make themselves available to another student at the end of that period.
3. Should the student and family be incompatible; it is reasonable to make a change. Please call the staff at the Ivanhoe International Center at South Dakota Mines or staff at the International Students, Inc. (ISI) and relate the situation and we will make other arrangements.
4. Families and students are asked to make contact at least once each month. It may be only to inquire about health and well-being, or it may be for an invitation. Keep in contact with your family to show you are interested in them. The thought is the important thing. This will also give you the opportunity to practice your English skills.
5. A few activities are planned during the academic year. We hope that both students and families will take advantage of these opportunities to get acquainted with other families and students, as well as the staff from the international offices at South Dakota Mines & ISI. We will send announcements to you. Your support of these activities is very much appreciated.
6. Religion and religious institutions constitute an important aspect of our culture in the United States, which you should have an opportunity to learn about and observe if you so wish. If your Friendship Family invites you to attend religious services with them, particularly during holidays, go only if you feel comfortable. When you have questions regarding religion, we strongly encourage an open discussion. The policy of the Friendship Family Program, in accordance with NAFSA: Association of International Educators policy, is that proselytizing (or recruiting) must not be carried out.
7. Suggested activities for students and families to get together might include children's birthday parties, school activities, sports events, lectures, and special holiday celebrations.
8. Explain your customs, country, food, etc. to your Friendship Family. They may enjoy trying some traditional food that you prepare for them. Ask questions about customs, culture, religion, politics, etc. to learn more about your family and the United States.
9. Most importantly, relax and enjoy your affiliation!

Thank you in advance for your involvement in this rewarding program.