



## FAQ for Space Weekend Host Families Nov. 5-6, 2016:

- **Where are the students from?** They are current international students (various countries) from UT Austin and UT Arlington.
- **How many students will be in a host home?** All homes are assigned at least 2 students. We can assign more if Host family is willing to accommodate more.
- **Will we get male and female students?** Students will be all male or all female (no mixed assignments). Host families can choose their preference if they have one.
- **Do I have to have a guest bedroom in my home to be a host home?** No, Students will be prepared to sleep on the floor. However, couches or air mattresses would be most welcomed! If one of your guests is a staff/volunteer driver, please offer them a bed, if it is available.
- **Do I need to feed them dinner Saturday night?** No, Gateway is providing dinner for the students and for you and your family for Saturday night! You might consider serving ice cream or another easy dessert in your home after the banquet to continue conversation time!
- **What will we talk about?** Find out where your students are from and what they are studying, but also how their culture is different from yours, about their family, what they like to do in their free time, what they want to see in Texas and the US while they are here.
- **Do I have to cook a big breakfast for Sunday?** With international students, simpler is usually better. The best suggestions are fruits, breads (who doesn't love a bagel or donuts?) and juices. Very few non-American cultures are "bacon and eggs."
- **We still have young children in our home; won't that be a nuisance to the students?** Quite the opposite, we have found that international students often miss their siblings and enjoy being around children again. They will have interesting conversations with the Hosts and the Host's kids.
- **Will students have free reign of my home?** Absolutely not. Set boundaries of where they should/should not go. Make your computer "off-limits." Set expectations of wake up and departure times.
- **What about daylight savings time?** Daylight savings time will end at 2:00 am on Nov. 6. Please prepare your guests for the time change and plan accordingly when waking and leaving for church or you'll show up an hour early! Time will fall back one hour so that you gain an extra hour for staying up late and visiting with your guests!
- **We serve on Sunday mornings, what will our visiting students do while we serve?** If possible, we encourage you to invite your students to serve (observe) with you! For children's ministry, you will need to check them in as a visitor at check-in booth to receive visitor lanyards and then they can go with you to your classroom. If you serve in an area that just can't accommodate visitors, please let us know and we can make special arrangements for them!
- **What service should we attend?** If you are generally at church for only one service, it is best to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> service. If you attend one service and serve during the other, then stick to your regular schedule following directions above. If you serve at and attend 1<sup>st</sup> service only, you can

give a tour of the church and/or visit in the coffee shop until lunch or even hang out in Warehouse and help set-up for lunch!

- **What do I tell them about church?** As much as you want! Prepare them for the order of events. Share what worship is. Explain about the offering, our tithe, and how they are not expected to contribute. This conversation may even lead to what lead you to Gateway? How is Gateway different or the same as other churches? Feel free to share your testimony, if you're willing.
- **Should the students take communion that morning?** Nov. 6 is Communion Sunday. For those attending 1<sup>st</sup> service, Communion will be offered in the Life Center immediately following the service. For those attending 2<sup>nd</sup> service, Communion will be offered in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service. At Gateway we practice "open communion". This means that anyone that is seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ is invited to participate. This will probably not apply to most students, but they are welcome to observe as another part of learning about our culture and our Christian faith.
- **What about lunch on Sunday?** Lunch will be provided in the Warehouse immediately following 2<sup>nd</sup> service for students and host families. This will be very casual, self-serve sandwiches and salads. This is a great time to answer any questions that your students might have about what they have observed at church. This is also a chance to say good bye before they head out. Some of the students will head to the Kemah Boardwalk, some to a Museum, and then back to their home campus.
- **Am I expected to keep in contact with the students?** No, but you are welcome to if you like! That is between you and the students. Facebook and other social media are a great way to stay in touch if you don't want to give your personal contact information.
- **What else can I do to make this event a success?** Pray! Pray that God will move in the hearts of those that attend! Pray that seeds are planted and that others will come along after us to water them! Pray that students will be drawn closer to Him through this experience and through your hospitality. May they see Christ in you!



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Please contact Donna at [dattoe@gateway-community.org](mailto:dattoe@gateway-community.org) or 832-287-6340 if you are interested in being a host home for Space Weekend.