Hosting Chinese Students

“It was life-changing for our family! We loved our new ‘daughter,’ Ya, and there were tears when it was time for her to go home.”

This is a typical reaction from a family who hosts one or two of our Chinese students in their home for a three to five day visit. Hosting Chinese students is fun, educational, and culturally revealing. Not only do our families learn about life in China, but they also gain a new appreciation for our blue skies, our open spaces, and our large homes.

Nothing special is required for a family to host, as long as they have one or two spare beds to provide to their guest(s). Calling these students guests is really not accurate, because they should be treated as a member of your family. They will share meals with you, go to school events with you, and attend school with your son or daughter. We tell families that no special activities are required, because we want our Chinese friends to experience American culture as it is, not as a tourist, but as a family member.

Usually, the visitors spend an entire weekend with their host families. If you normally attend a football game on Friday night or go to a band contest on Saturday, they should go right along with you. If you usually watch a movie and have popcorn on Friday evenings, then do that. If you have something special you often do on a weekend, like go to a state park or visit a museum, our students will enjoy those activities as well. Take them to church if that is your usual custom. But, do not feel as if you need to entertain the student(s). They will be quite satisfied just spending time with you and experiencing your life as a typical Midwestern American family.

The Chinese Education Connection presents a short course to all host families shortly before the Chinese arrive. We call it “Host Family 101,” and our staff talks about those cultural differences that can cause misunderstandings, the unique characteristics of Chinese kids, and suggestions on what to do when the kids arrive and throughout their stay.

Thank you so much for considering this exciting opportunity. Please fill out the form by going to this link provided in the opening of this email.