

RUF International Hospitality Meal at an American Home

Guideline for Internationals

Purpose of the Program

We want to welcome you to America by welcoming you into an American home. We would be honored to meet and get to know you over a one-time dinner meal. If you are a family, please bring your family with you. If you are single, please feel free to invite another friend or two to join you as well. Please let your American host know about this as they will be responsible to pick you up and to bring you to their home.

Interacting with Your American Host

- On receiving the invitation, please confirm the date and time and arrive at the scheduled time.
- In the United States it is important to be on time.
 - a. If your host will pick you up. You are expected to be ready at the time you agree upon. If you are going to be more than 5 minutes late, you should let them know.
 - b. If you drive your own vehicle, please arrive on time or no more than 5 minutes late. Let your host know if you will be late more than 5 minutes. Also, do not arrive earlier than 5 minutes. Arrive on time is prefer. If you arrive earlier than 5 minutes, wait in your car before you knock the door or ring the bell of the house. Your host may not be ready for you.
- Don't worry about your English ability, your host will understand and help you. If your host says something too fast or something that you don't understand, ask them to repeat or explain. They will be glad to do that.
- Please do not ask your host about the price of their house. In America, guests don't do that.
- You do not need to bring a gift. A gift is not expected in an American culture.
- Do not take your shoes off unless your host ask you for that. Most Americans do not take their shoes off in the house, but there are some who do so.

At the Table

- In conversation, your host will be interested to learn about your family and culture. Ask your host questions about their family—their children's names, family activities, etc.
- Usually, food is either served buffet style or by passing the serving bowl around the dining table.
- It is better to take a smaller serving to make sure you do not end up wasting any food. You can always go for a second serving. If you are full and the family offers you more food, you can politely refuse by saying, "No, thank you."
- If you are unfamiliar with the eating utensils, don't be shy to ask the host or simply observe and follow them in using the utensils.
- Americans eat with their mouth closed and chew their food quietly. They also do not slurp when they drink soup, coffee, or any other drink.
- Silent your mobile phone and put it in your pocket or bag.
- Guests usually do not bring their plates to the kitchen after finishing their meal. Offering to help the host with the dishes is a kind gesture, but it's not necessary.

After Meal

- It is polite to stay and visit for at least an hour. If you cannot stay, explain why you need to leave.
- At the end of your visit, let your host know that you appreciate them. Remember to compliment the food and thank the family for inviting you.
- You are encouraged to stay in contact with your host. Who knows what your friendship with each other will bring :)