



**A GREAT experience for your family, a GREAT way to help others, a GREAT way to support the community!**

**Here's a way for your family to have a fun culturally-expanding experience this summer, while helping a kid from outside the US experience our community.**

**Please consider being a Homestay host family for a week this July.**

For over 25 years, the MCYSA has been welcoming international teams to McHenry County for our annual baseball tournament. Part of the experience for local and international teams has been the Homestay Program. This program allows international players to live like Americans for the week, and allows host families the chance to learn how other cultures live.

### **Host Family Requirements**

We ask each Host Family to welcome two players into their home for the duration of the tournament (six days minimum). In addition to providing them with beds, meals and transportation, we ask that you treat the players as you would want your own child treated if they were traveling outside of the United States.

- All family members age 18 or older who reside in the host family home are required to undergo a criminal background check. The background checks are conducted through and outside agency and paid for by the MCYSA.
- All driving must be done by a responsible adult, at least 18 years old, who has completed the background check.

### **Benefits of Hosting**

In addition to the many cultural benefits

- The host family will receive \$30 per night per player to cover gas/food/lodging responsibilities
- Each member of the host family will receive a t-shirt from representing the country of the team they are hosting
- All homestay families are eligible for a \$1000 drawing; four winners will be selected from all host families.
- Homestay family members can apply for the MCYSA Scholarship in the "Homestay Category" when they reach college age and eligibility requirements.

*Hosting the boys from Puerto Rico was a life-changing experience. You don't think you will get attached, and yet you do! You treat them like your own, and then they leave and you miss them. We still keep in touch our boys. And playing pro baseball is still their dream after 4 years. You hope and pray that their dreams come true because they are now part of your family.*

*The Knoeppel family*

*We were nervous about hosting 2 boys from Brazil for the MCYSA tournament, but it turned out to be an awesome experience. We had so much fun with them, our kids included. There were lots of tears when they left.*

*The Blackmore family*



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or for a "no commitment" conversation.

## ***Frequently asked questions:***

- **What are the dates?** Teams will probably arrive July 11 and leave on July 22 or 23. Homestay assignments are normally split: July 11 to 16 and July 17 to 22/23. Japan players will probably arrive July 15 and leave July 23.
- **Where are the players from?** Puerto Rico, Brazil and Japan.
- **How old are the players?** The teams will be playing in the 15 year old tournament, but some could be as much as two years younger.
- **Can the players speak English?** We try to make sure that at least one of the two players has at least some English skills. Most players have cell phones with translation apps to help fill in the communication gaps.
- **What are the responsibilities of the host family?** The host family treats the players as if they were part of their own family. This includes getting the players to their games, washing their uniforms, feeding them and entertaining them when they do not have games. Players can share the same room, sleep on air mattresses, etc. Families are reimbursed \$30 per player per day.
- **What is involved in entertaining the guests?** Most of the players are interested in shopping in the United States and bring money and a shopping list from home. Many host families keep something like a “bags” game set up in their yard for the kids to play in their spare time. Some host families will take their guest players on outings like taking the train to the city, or to Six Flags, or to a waterpark in their free time. Often multiple host families with kids from the same team will gather for cookouts or parties.
- **What are these players like?** Although they are teenagers, these kids are generally well behaved, respectful and grateful. The organizations that bring these players set expectations for them regarding manners and behavior and step-in if necessary. Most players stay in touch with their host families after their visit, some of them for years. One CL family traveled to Puerto Rico to attend the wedding of one of their homestay players several years after his visit. Most families become very attached to their guests.
- **Can I ask questions or get more information without making a commitment to be a homestay family?** Absolutely! We want you to be informed and comfortable before making a commitment. Don't hesitate to contact us for more information.