



BOLD LEADERS

Thank you so much for your interest in participating as a BoldLeaders Host Family! We've answered some frequently asked questions below. If you have any additional questions, please contact: [Jennifer Ruskey](#), Home Stay Coordinator at (208) 521-0476, or [Brady Rhodes](#), Program Co-Director at (720) 341-4236.

Thank you again for your interest in contributing as a Host Family!

Will my guest be the same age and gender as my teenager?

For our Sub-Saharan Africa program, we do our best to match the Teen Host and Guest by gender, age and interests. If we are unable to match the gender, we will contact you to see if you are okay with having a Guest who is a different gender than the Host Teen. Sometimes this works out if there is a brother or sister close to the same age. For the BoldFood Project, please let us know if you have a preference for male or female.

Will my guest speak English?

In the case of the students from Sub-Saharan Africa, they will all speak English — many will likely speak it very well or better than you or I! Even though they have been instructed in English since they began school however, it will be important to:

- be aware of any idioms you commonly+ use that may be unfamiliar
- be aware of how fast you are speaking (it is hard to understand a language you are familiar with if someone has a different accent or speech manners)
- check for understanding
- be careful not to mix too many important ideas or instructions into one statement. Especially regarding instructions
- keep it simple and check for understanding as needed.

What is a “Family Meeting”? We ask that all host families and their guest sit down during the first 24 hours of the home stay experience and talk through several things that will help answer questions and provide information for everyone in the house. This is a great time to talk about:

- religious practices
- Food or diet issues (either for the guest or the family)
- the family schedule for the next few days
- any special events or celebrations you have planned
- any special issues about the transportation arrangements made with CMLE
- what a normal day and evening in the house looks like
- any guidelines about phone, TV or internet/computer use
- how to deal with the pets (if there are any)
- what they can do to help around the house (please think of some things, as they will be eager to do this and it will feel more natural to them)

We find that communication in the beginning really helps set the stage for a smooth experience during the home stay.

What about religion?

Learning about another culture's religion or spiritual practices is a great way to better understand that culture. With that in mind, we ask the participants to take part in whatever religious habits your family takes part in at least once — however, we ask that the family always offers a choice, and that it is not required for the Guest to participate. This is a great topic to explore during your Family Meeting: find out what they would like to do regarding their own faith and share what your family does. Finding a place of worship that your guest can go to is a great way to help them feel at home. Many of our host families in the past have found a place of worship that meets their guest's needs and they have all gone there together! Several of the participants will be Muslim and will be interested in visiting a Mosque. There are several in and around Denver to visit if you are interested!

What are some ground rules for the students of the Sub-Saharan African Program?

Whatever rules or expectations you have within your family should be the same for your guest. In addition, we ask that the guests are never away from the home alone unless you have arranged something prior to that with the CMLE staff. If they are away from the house in the evening, we ask that a member of the Host Family is with them and that a reasonable curfew time is agreed upon. The ground rules for the program include: no alcohol, drugs, violence, vandalism, or sexual contact. In addition we have an expectation that they participate, communicate concerns and needs and are responsible for their environment.

What about smoking, for them or for us?

If someone in your family smokes, please let us know and we will use that information to match you with your guest. If your potential guest smokes and plans to continue while he or she is here, we will communicate this to you and see if that fits with your family expectations. In all cases, we would ask that the guest only smokes outside the house in a designated area and that he or she is responsible for cleaning up any trash.

What if I cannot provide transportation?

It is a great help when the host families provide transportation AND it is NOT a deal-breaker! We will first work to find someone who lives near you and arrange a carpool. If that does not work we will be happy to pick your guest up from your house. Sometimes this means they are in the home alone after you have gone to work — that is fine with us as long as you have talked with them about your schedule and what they can do to get ready, have breakfast, etc. If you are traveling near the drop-off location, it also works to leave them at a coffee-shop that we know about where they can sit and wait until we pick them up. Please know that we will do whatever is needed to make this a smooth part of the process for you. We provide you with a detailed map of all the drop-off and pick-up locations and times, as well as where the other host families live. We will provide a sign-up sheet that lets us know when each family is able to provide transport and when they need assistance. In the case of the BoldFood Project, we will provide the participants with public transportation passes and work with you to engineer some “test runs”.

What about public transportation for the teensagers?

If someone from the host family is traveling with the guest, this is fine. We would not like the guest to be traveling alone unless we have made prior arrangements with the family, such as a “practice travel day” or provided them with a cell phone if needed.

How do they contact their own family in Africa?

We will provide them with a calling card and a 1-800 access number that they can dial from your home phone. We will also have opportunities for them to use Skype to call another computer or phone in Africa while they are with us. We will send the calling card information to you as well.

What if they get sick or injured while they are here?

Each participant is covered by solid accident/illness insurance provided by the State Dept. All of the CMLE staff have this insurance information. If the guest needs to see a doctor or be admitted into an Emergency Room, let us know and we will meet you there immediately. We will also communicate any health needs or concerns regarding your guest prior to their arrival. The BoldFood Participants will carry an insurance card with them at all times, and we will have a back-up copy as needed.