



# ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM

For students looking for a broader experience and total immersion into life in America, Nacel Open Door, Inc. (NOD) offers the Academic Year Program (AYP). Students live with carefully selected volunteer Host Families for five or ten month periods while attending an American high school. Our Local Representatives place students in cities and towns all across the United States, where they are welcomed as members of the family and community.

## RELATIONSHIPS

Because our students are seeking a cross-cultural experience involving American home life and school, relationships are the foundation of this program. We encourage our Host Families to treat their student as a member of the family, not as a guest. This enables the student and Host Family to bond in meaningful ways.

## SUPPORT

NOD is adamant about providing multiple avenues of support to each student, Host Family, and Local Representative. We're unique in the amount of services we provide, especially with regards to our Student Advisors. This support network at the local, regional, and national levels is dedicated to assisting students and Host Families to ensure a memorable experience in the U.S.

## VOLUNTEER

NOD's AYP Host Families are entirely volunteer, which speaks to their great kindness and generosity when hosting students.

## AUTHENTICITY

Most of our students are coming to the U.S. because they want to experience life as an American teen. By staying with a "real family," students get an honest look at what the American lifestyle is really about.





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## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT IS A TYPICAL HOST FAMILY?

Host Families are as diverse as the U.S. itself. A Host Family may have one or two parents, children young and old, or no children at all. Host Families also vary in socioeconomic backgrounds. All Host Families are volunteers and do not receive compensation for hosting. All students learn about their Host Families before coming to live in the U.S.

### CAN STUDENTS CHOOSE WHERE THEY STAY IN THE U.S.?

Part of being an exchange student is flexibility and openness to new experiences *anywhere!* NOD matches students with Host Families based on similar interests; therefore, students are not able to choose where they will live and study. Students may be placed in a rural, suburban, or urban area in any region of the U.S.

### HOW ARE HOST FAMILIES SELECTED?

Host Families are screened in accordance with U.S. government regulations. This includes an application, personal visit to the home by a Local Representative, photographs of the home, recommendations, and a criminal background check for all individuals aged 18 or older living in the home.

### CAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL SPORTS?

Participation in school sports is not guaranteed. Athletic availability and eligibility is determined by local school districts and state high school athletic associations. If students would like to participate in a sport, they should check with the Athletic Director at their high school regarding eligibility.

### WHERE CAN I FIND SUPPORT?

Your Local Representative is normally the first point of contact, but a Regional Coordinator, NOD Student Advisors, and the National Office are all available to help you. There is also a 24-hour telephone number available for emergencies.

### WHAT EXPENSES WILL I HAVE?

Host Families provide students with room and board. Since Host Families are including students as a member of their family, they might pay for family activities as well. Students should expect to pay for any other personal expenses, like independent social activities such as movies or concerts or any personal items like clothing or electronics.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.nacelopendoor.org](http://www.nacelopendoor.org)

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