



Friendship Force International Tips on Being a Good Ambassador

BE ADAPTABLE. Be open to new foods, a new daily schedule, and unfamiliar habits. Look forward to such differences.

Share your hosts' lifestyle, join in and help with home activities. Feel free to ask questions, but at the same time, be sensitive to areas where your host seems to prefer privacy.

Share your life with your hosts. Show them pictures of your family, home, workplace, and pets, picture postcards of your city. Take a city map and show them where you live and work, and where the postcard scenes are located.

If your host family has children, take along games, toys, or puzzles to play with them. A picture dictionary or humorous children's picture books will be enjoyed by parents as well as children.

Activities you can share without much language include looking at picture books, perhaps of your home state or the United States. If you like jigsaw puzzles, a fairly easy one might involve family members of various ages. Some games involve a little language.

Enjoy the activities your hosts have planned for you, but be able to amuse yourself part of the time. Explore the neighborhood, write postcards, read, play with the children, or go on sightseeing and shopping trips alone when the family is busy and you're ready to go.

Be reasonable about your purchases of things to take home. Don't let shopping seem more important than making friends and learning about a different culture.

Be considerate of limited resources. For example, your hosts' hot water supply may not equal what you are accustomed to at home. (People from different countries often consider U.S. citizens as overwashed).

Don't be afraid to speak the language even if your hosts speak English. Your mistakes will make them feel better about their limitations in English. If neither you nor your hosts speak each other's language well, you might try yet another language, and, of course, gestures. Use the dictionary.

Ask for help if you need it, from your hosts, from the Exchange Director, or from anyone available.

Be patient if lines are long and service is slow. Expect plans to get fouled up sometimes. Be prompt, but don't be surprised if others are not.

BE FLEXIBLE!

Friendship Force International
34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 900
Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404-522-9490 Fax: 404-688-6148 E-mail: ffi@friendshipforce.org
www.friendshipforce.org