

# WESSEX

## Host Family Visit Guidelines

### **A. Prior to the Visit**

1. Host Family Interview Questions: Along with the Application and information about Rotary's Youth Exchange Program; include the Host Family Interview Questions (essay response) to open up dialogue in regard to beliefs and views of the family.
2. Phone conversation: Make it clear what will take place and what you will be discussing during your home visit assessment.

**B. At the Visit:** These questions are some you may want to ask yourself or could be asked during the home visit to further explore answers to questions in the application & Host Family Interview:

#### Questions to ask yourself:

- Are the hosts warm, friendly, inviting, and behaviorally appropriate?
- Does the home have a warm friendly, safe and inviting atmosphere?
- Is the home clean, safe and orderly? (Would you want to stay there for any length of time?)
- Are all of the family members there during the interview? (You probably will need to reschedule)
- What is the physicality of the family?
- Are the family's interactions with each other safe and behaviorally appropriate?
- Are they open and non-defensive in conversing with you about themselves and their application?

#### Follow up questions to the application & supplemental questionnaire:

- Are there other children or adults in the home?
- How do the other children / family members feel about a student staying with them?
- What kind of activities does the family like to do? Are they flexible?
- What are the basic house rules? Are they flexible?
- What are the family routines and practices?
- Where will the exchange student live while with them?
  - Space issues?
  - Privacy issues?
- How will you establish communication & what will you watch for to see if the exchange is going well for the student?

#### More personal follow up questions:

- How does your family handle discipline?
- How is conflict handled? Anger? Sadness? Anxiety?
- How will you maintain some level of privacy for the family and the student during the exchange?
- How will you handle possible religious differences?
- How is alcohol handled?

Vignettes: Utilize the Host Family Vignettes in order to have a few scenarios in mind to present during the interview of situations that may arise to see how comfortable the family may be in working with the student.

### **C. Next Steps:**

1. The family seems to meet the Host Family criteria:
  - a. Another Rotarian needs to visit the family at least once to get a separate perspective. This helps us to get more of a picture of day-to-day life.
    - i. spread out the paperwork that needs to be completed
    - ii. drop off or pick up paperwork in person
2. If the family does not seem appropriate for the program, notify the District Youth Exchange Officer.