



Expectations and Guidelines for Community Volunteers

1. The LIFE program is a social relationship meant to facilitate friendship and cultural exchange. Hosts are NOT expected to provide housing for international students, or assistance with financial, academic, medical or psychological difficulties. Students should be encouraged to contact the Center for Global Engagement or the appropriate services at JMU to address these concerns.
2. Students and a family are matched for a period of up to one year. If the relationship is beneficial, we encourage you to continue it as long as the student is studying at JMU.
3. Participants are expected to attend the LIFE reception at the beginning of each semester where they will meet their student(s).
4. Friendship families are urged to connect at least once per month. Whenever possible, we suggest that you invite your student to join you for birthday parties, athletic events, concerts, lectures, special activities, etc. Let them experience your typical activities living rather than treating them as guests. This offers them a more genuine view into American culture and will also be easier for you. Also, if your student invites you to one of their events, please try to participate.
5. Encourage your student to talk about their family, customs, country, values, belief systems, food etc. Take a genuine interest in them, but remember to be patient and open minded as you observe differences in culture.
6. Religious institutions are an important aspect of American culture. International students should be able to learn about them if they wish. However, if you invite them to a religious event or holiday, clearly state the nature of the event and allow the student the right to choose if they want to participate or not. Proselytizing is not permitted.
7. In most cases, allow students to pay their own way to activities they will be told to expect to do this during their orientation. However, be sensitive to the student's ability to pay when inviting them to participate in an activity.
8. If, for any reason, your student is not compatible with you and your family, it is reasonable to request a change. Do not neglect the situation. To discuss, contact [Emma Lundeen](#), the LIFE coordinator.