

MATCHING HOST FAMILIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Importance Of Advertising:

- Create short, attention grabbing descriptors that will attract both audiences
- Get the word out about two months in advance
- Advertise in the weekly bulletin or ask the church to set up a webpage where hosts can sign-up easily through a link you provide
- Utilize social media to attract internationals
- For signup links: I use Google Forms because it automatically creates an excel spreadsheet of those who signup

How To Prepare Your Hosts:

- Have a coaching time in person or over a brief video conference call
- Set up a 30-45 minute video conference
- Use a platform like Google Meet so that multiple people can join the call at once
 - Offer several coaching times they can choose from
 - Make this mandatory for new hosts

Training:

- The heart behind hosting internationals during the holiday
- Best practices
- Expectations as a host
- Prayer

Matching Process:

- Delegate this to someone who has administrative skills
- Let the host know that the matching can take time
- Set a deadline of when the last guest can sign up
- Start the process of matching two to three weeks before the actual holiday
- Let your internationals know they need to respect their hosts by committing
- Let hosts know that it's their responsibility to arrange transportation and to take over communication once you match them with an international
- After the holiday, follow-up with the hosts and guests to gather stories and to see how you can improve the process for next year

My encouragement is to start small and learn what works best for your location.
