Homestay - a good Cultural and Family Experience by Mark Bennett

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There are many families in US who go for the option of homestay. Homestay is a kind of study abroad program where a student from a country comes to U.S. for their studies. It can be said as a kind of tourism.

In a homestay, a student i.e. a host student can experience the culture and traditions of the country. Most of the families in U.S. go for the concept of homestay as it leads to a cross-cultural exchange, where the family and the host student can exchange their culture, tradition, and spend time as a family.

Host students come to US as the education system is quite recognized and it also helps them to understand more about US. They could know what the people of US are like, their behavior, way of living etc. It could also help them to understand the various culture and traditions that are followed all over US. Majority of the host students are basically those who want to improve their English. These are the students who opt for the ESL course, so as a part of their course, they come to US and stay for two weeks and sometimes up to a month.

For a family, having a homestay student helps them to have a cultural interaction. The family members could know more about the particular culture and the way of living of that student and help him or her to know more about the US. They could teach him the ways of living, the various kinds of people to interact with and also make him feel as a part of the people of US. Besides, having a homestay student also gives an additional income to the family.

Not only students opt for homestay, but also people on vacation who need a place to live, people who want to relocate, etc. take the homestay program as a temporary option. In case of students, they arrange homestay through their educational institutions or maybe through private agencies. Nowadays there are a lot of private agencies that cater to the program of homestay.

If a student contacts the private agency, this agency will give the list of places where the student can find a family that caters to his needs. The student may want to have a family that understands or knows about the country from where he has come and makes him feel as a part of their family. Besides the student can also choose from the basic requirements like the type of room, amenities present in them and security.

Some students stay with the host family under one roof. The family will rent out a particular room for the student which will have the basic amenities like bed, table, chair, TV, etc. Some families also provide PC with Internet connection and also cable connection for the TV. This kind of homestay is good as the student gets to interact with the host family daily and know about their familyâ€™s culture, tradition and also learn more about the language. Some families take the student with them for outings, family celebrations and also religious festivals giving the student a better view about the culture.

Another kind of homestay is where the host family rents out the outhouse or the guesthouse to the student which allows minimum supervision. In this case, the student would like to have good amenities like individual toilet, phone connection, TV, and security systems, etc. In this kind of homestay, the student may not experience a good cultural interaction or may not be able to develop his English communication skills. The student will have minimum interaction with the family and also taking part in the family celebrations and outings will be less.

Opening the doors of your house to a student or a person who wants to or likes to be a part of the US culture and the way of living is good and appreciable. It helps the people from other countries to know how it is like living in US and also makes them become a part of the culture and people of the US.

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Mark Bennett - About Author:
Mark is a freelance writer and he writes about technology, entertainment and home security systems that are currently available in the market like a ADT Security System.

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