



**YFU SOUTH AFRICA**  
**make the world your home**



## See the World up Close Without Leaving Home

### *Host a YFU Exchange Student!*

#### **Open your home and heart to an exchange student**

Welcome an international son or daughter into your home and learn just how amazing your ordinary life can be to an exchange student from another country. Get started on your greatest journey yet, and gain a new friend and family member for life!

Share our South African customs and your family's unique traditions while discovering a new culture right in your home by becoming a YFU host family.

#### **Youth for Understanding: Changing lives since 1951**

YFU is one of the world's oldest and largest exchange organizations and has been trusted to provide study abroad opportunities for more than 260,000 high school students since 1951.

We are a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization with offices in 50+ countries across the globe. In South Africa, YFU opened its doors in 1995 and continues to create bonds of international and interpersonal friendship.

Our mission is to advance intercultural understanding, life-long learning, global competencies, mutual respect, and social responsibility through transformational educational exchanges for generations of youth, families, and communities.

*your*  
**ordinary**  
*life is*  
**extraordinary**  
*to an* **exchange**  
**student**





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## Why should we host an exchange student?

The aim of the YFU hosting programme is to achieve full integration of the student into your family – not to become a guest in your home, but a family member as your own son, daughter, brother or sister.

### **Experience a new and exciting family dynamic!**

You will start a lifelong relationship with your new son or daughter, that won't end when the exchange does. If you have children, they will gain a broader perspective on the world and learn about geography, communication and other cultures.

### **See your community through fresh eyes!**

When you share your community with a YFU student, you'll find yourself exploring your local surroundings through different eyes. Even a simple trip to the grocery store may become a favorite memory for you and your student.

### **A commitment to intercultural understanding!**

In today's world, the principles of youth exchange hold as much relevance as ever. By hosting a student from a different culture, we come to understand that our similarities are greater than our differences.

### **Share your cultures, values and traditions!**

By opening your home and hearts to an exchange student, you also get the opportunity to share your own way of life, and to introduce your new family member to South Africa's rich culture.

**take part**  
*in a*  
**lifelong**  
**journey**





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## The Hosting Experience: What to Expect

South Africa is known for its diversity and our host families are as diverse as South Africa itself. YFU host families come in all shapes and sizes: They are multi-ethnic, single, married, same-sex couples, with or without children, working-age, retired, living in cities, villages or on farms. We encourage our students to be open-minded and to embrace the unique diversity of our families.

### **How long do the students stay?**

Your family can volunteer to host a student for the full year or for a period of 4-6 months. You can also offer your assistance as a temporary host family.

### **Where do YFU exchange students come from?**

YFU South Africa receives students from Europe, North America, South America and Australia. They are carefully selected and thoroughly prepared for their exchange experience in our country.

### **What will be expected of us?**

Host families are expected to provide the student with their own bed to sleep in, a place to study and three meals a day. The household should consist of at least two persons who speak one of South Africa's eleven official languages. The most important part, however, is to make your exchange student a part of your family and everyday life, and to support them on their journey through a new and unknown culture.

### **What about the financial side of things?**

Since YFU is a non-profit organization, our host families do not receive financial compensation for hosting a student. However, school fees are covered by YFU and the student's personal expenses (such as school uniform, school books, toiletries, leisure activities, hobbies etc.) are paid for by the student or the student's natural parents.

*open.*  
**minds**  
*and*  
**hearts**





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## Preparation and Support For Host Families

Throughout your hosting experience, YFU will be with you every step of the way. Our professional staff and our experienced volunteers will help you prepare for the arrival of your student and support you on an on-going basis to help you make the best of your hosting experience.

### **Pre-arrival orientation for host families**

Prior to the arrival of your student you will attend a half-day host family orientation which usually takes place on a weekend. This gives you the opportunity to learn about cultural adaptation and best practices, meet other host families, and exchange experiences with YFU staff, volunteers and former host families.

### **Personal YFU contact person**

As a YFU host family you will have a personal Placement Support Person ('PSP') who will be in touch with you on a regular basis and assist you with any challenges or difficulties you might face. All our PSPs are either experienced volunteers or have hosted exchange students themselves.

### **Administrative assistance from our office**

Our YFU office staff will be there for you to assist with any administrative questions you may have, e.g. in connection with school enrolment, medical insurance, or travelling with your student.

### **Orientations and support for your student**

Just like our host families, our students attend several orientations during their exchange and every student has a personal YFU Support Person. Our students also attend a pre-departure orientation in their home country to prepare them for the first days and weeks in their new home.

*share  
your story,  
traditions  
and customs*





## Are you ready to open your home and heart?

If you would like to join the YFU family and host an exchange student, please get in touch with us to request your host family application form or [download it here](#).

Once we have received your application, one of our representatives will visit you to get to know you and your family and answer any further questions you may have. If your application is successful, we will help you select your new family member, based on your mutual interests and personalities.

Once we have found the perfect match for you, we will assist you with the necessary paperwork, as well as with the school enrollment process. Last but not least, you will receive the contact details of your new son or daughter so that you can 'meet' them via Skype, WhatsApp or email before they arrive.



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Visit our website [www.yfu.org.za](http://www.yfu.org.za) and follow us on social media!

