

HOMESTAY

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

The Odyssey of the Mind Homestay Program provides an opportunity for International and American teams to make friends and to experience each others' cultures. International teams in good standing participating in World Finals may apply for a Homestay. They will stay in the homes of American families associated with Odyssey of the Mind.

International Odyssey of the Mind teams who will be competing in World Finals are eligible to apply for a Homestay.

International Association Directors or country representatives should notify the Homestay Coordinator in the fall giving an estimated number of teams who may be requesting a Homestay following World Finals and the state or area within the US in which they would like to have a Homestay. Actual locations depend on the locations in which we have US teams volunteering to host Homestays, but knowing your preferences will help us make good matches. Also tell us if your team might prefer an urban location, or an opportunity to visit a team in some smaller town.

There is no guarantee that a Homestay can be arranged. Availability depends on the number of US teams volunteering to host a Homestay.

Homestays generally last 5 to 9 days following World Finals. This year World Finals Awards Ceremony will be Saturday night, May 29th. Specific arrangements are made between the International and American coaches. In 2009 the majority of the Homestays were 8 or 9 days with the International teams departing on Sunday or Monday.

The Homestay host provides lodging, meals, and some planned activities. International teams are expected to pay for their personal expenses such as meals out, entrance fees, shopping, and any special outings or amusement parks. Homestay activity plans and details are joint efforts between the American and International coaches.

Transportation cost and arrangements to and from the Homestay location is the responsibility of the International team. Generally the Homestay coach or parents provide advice in making travel arrangements within the US. Once the International team has arrived, the host families will need to provide local transportation.

Please note that most Homestays ARE NOT near World Finals. International teams are responsible for making travel arrangements to and from the Homestay location. It may be possible to book your flight home from an airport near the Homestay location. (Most teams do this). Homestay hosts cannot be expected to make travel arrangements nor book tickets on their credit cards for International teams.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR HOMESTAY IN 2010 IS APRIL 16. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER THIS DATE.

To apply for a Homestay or for additional information contact:
Tom Scott, Homestay Coordinator at OdysseyHomestay@gmail.com

Information concerning the Homestay Program is on the Odyssey of the Mind web site.
<http://www.OdysseyoftheMind.com>