



Tips for Hosting

a House-to-House Event

- Have name tags available.
- Consider allowing guests to bring a food item. This tends to make the event less formal.
- Consider having vegetarian food options available for those with religious/health restrictions.
- Consider having at least one dessert option that is fruit-based. International people often find American desserts to be overpoweringly sweet.
- Plan a “show-and-tell” through your house and yard. International guests love seeing wall hangings, family pictures, and other memory artifacts.
- If you already have an international “Family Friend” from another program, feel free to invite them as well!

“This opportunity was the best experience I’ve had in Auburn! Meeting Americans in their beautiful homes gave me a new understanding of life in the United States that I never would have received without this program.”



House-to-House Program



“Extending a hand of hospitality to the international





Hospitality...it's a Southern Tradition

As members of the Auburn community, we take great pride in our town and university.

As southerners, we know that offering hospitality to strangers is in our blood.

With the great influx of international students and faculty members moving to our campus over the past few years, many have wondered what we can do to welcome this growing population more fully into our community.

The Auburn University Graduate School is partnering with the local community to answer this question, by developing a program of outreach that is easy, fulfilling, and most of all...fun! We are proud to present the House-to-House Program, and we hope you will join us in the Auburn spirit by welcoming these foreign friends into your homes.

What it is...

Research shows that 80% of international students in the U.S. never enter an American family's home. We hope to change this statistic by matching international guests with volunteer American hosts who will team up with a friend to host a House-to-House event.

Steps:

- Two friends decide to team up and become cohosts for a single house-to-house event for 6-8 international guests.
- The Graduate School extends the invitation, secures the guests, and sends contact information to both cohosts.
- Guests come to the home of Friend 1 for appetizers, hors d'oeuvres and conversation.
- The hosts is encouraged to show their home to guests and after an hour or so, guests and hosts travel to the home of Friend 2 for dessert, conversation, and



"Such a fun time! Highly recommend this experience!"
- a former host

Contact

Dr. Leonard J. Vining
Graduate School
(334) 524-3823
vininlj@auburn.edu

We Connect You...

We connect hosts with international guests by locating students who desire to attend the event at the specific date and time that the host prefers. We send the host all the information that is needed to contact the guests and make any necessary preparations for transportation at least one week in advance.

We can assist the hosts with transporting the guests to and from the event if necessary.

Resources are available for hosts that can simplify the planning of the event and help make it a seamless experience.

Hosts that wish to extend hospitality to international friends but who may have some reservations about hosting guests from various cultural backgrounds can even request an American facilitator from our office to attend their event and help make conversation smooth and natural.

If this program sounds right for you, contact our office to begin your own wonderful experience of outreach to our growing international community!