

How to Host a Team

Because the teachers are “out on the road” we ask that the parishes find host families to provide sleeping arrangements, a morning continental breakfast, and possibly snacks to refuel. The team needs two “host homes,” one for the men and one for the women. Men and women are to be housed separately. It is easier for the team and the parish if the host homes are close to each other and to the parish since they travel in one car, but the team will be grateful for any housing.

The interaction at host homes is valuable for both the teachers and the families. However, because of the team’s schedule, it is important to stress that occasionally the teachers may be late getting home due to team meetings. Also, teachers may not always be present at the host families’ homes in the afternoons due to planning and setup.

Housing of team members takes place from their arrival Saturday afternoon/evening until their departure the following Saturday morning. Each team will provide their own transportation to and from the parish. It is helpful to give the team driver a detailed description or map to the location of the families who will be hosting the team, as well as those who will be providing the evening meals.

Meals

Plan to provide all of the team’s meals while the team is in your parish; depending on the specifics of the week’s schedule at your parish, the team may not require dinner at a host family’s every night.

The host family provides a continental style breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast need not be anything fancy or requiring effort; cereal, fruit, or toast is sufficient.

Lunch for Saturday (if the team has arrived) and Sunday can be at the host families’ homes. Please ask the host families not to plan any activities for the team on Sunday after Mass and/or lunch. This is “team time” and needs to be protected. The teams keep a demanding schedule each week for eight weeks. Like all of us, they require “down time.” Honoring God’s commandment to keep holy the Sabbath, Sunday afternoon is their time for rest, recreation, team fellowship, and time to prepare for the coming week.

Lunch for Monday through Friday should be provided by a parish family or the parish at 12:15 p.m. Volunteers assisting in the kitchen can prepare the lunch or the team can fix sandwiches from food brought in. Buffet style works best, and whoever is providing the meal may want to bring extra food for the volunteers, priest, etc.

Supper on Saturday should be scheduled for as early after Mass as possible. It would be ideal if the parish coordinator could host dinner on Saturday evening, as that would give everyone a chance to meet. If this is not possible, please find a family who can have them for dinner.

Supper on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday should be provided at 5:30 p.m. Please arrange for families in the parish to host the team for supper. This allows for more families to be involved in hosting the team and provides an excellent opportunity for the team to interact with families of the parish. A family may prepare and serve the meal, or have food brought in. Since the team is on a tight schedule, please do not schedule supper any earlier or later than 5:15 p.m. unless the team leader is notified. The team will leave the family's home no later than 6:30 p.m. to return to the parish for the evening program.

The team will not need supper on Wednesday if the parish is hosting the potluck. If there will not be a potluck, please find someone to host the team for supper at 5:15 p.m. If the potluck will be on another evening, please plan accordingly.

The team will not need supper on Thursday if their evening social with the junior high and senior high school youth involves a meal. If no meal is planned within the Thursday night activity, please find someone to host the team for supper at 5:15 p.m.

The need for supper on Friday should be determined when the team leader calls the parish contact during the week before the program.