

Thanksgiving Homestay Host Participant Information

The Thanksgiving Homestay Program provides BU undergraduates, who are unable to travel home during the holiday, with an opportunity to experience this festive American tradition with host families from New England and the surrounding areas. Hosts include students and their families at home, local families, students in their apartments, alumni, or faculty.

Each host will be assigned a student volunteer and an advisor. These volunteers will be responsible for matching students to their host families and managing conflict. They will essentially act as community representatives and safety nets for the program. If anything occurs during the program, the host's student volunteer will be the first point of contact. Rev. Brittany Longsdorf at Marsh Chapel (617-358-3399 or britt1@bu.edu) will also be available to handle any conflict.

On October 7th and November 3rd, information sessions will be held for both potential student and host participants. These information sessions will provide students and host families with more information about the program and to allow both parties to network with each other so they can establish relationships and possibly match themselves together for the homestay. Host applications are due on October 14 and both students and hosts will be notified of their matches and provided with contact information to plan for accommodations, pickup, etc. on November 14.

The host families participating in the Thanksgiving Homestay Program have responsibilities as follows:

- ❖ Host families are encouraged to attend one of the information sessions on either October 7 or November 3 where they will learn more about the program, meet its coordinators, and network with potential student participants.
- ❖ Transportation for your student participant to and from the George Sherman Union at Boston University to/from your home at the beginning and end of the program. Pick up will be on Wednesday, November 26th at 3 p.m., and drop off will be Sunday, November 30th at 3 p.m. You can make more flexible arrangements around the dates with your students if need be.
- ❖ Overnight Accommodation with an individual sleeping arrangement for the student for 4 nights.

- ❖ All meals (including costs of meals) over the period of 4 days.
- ❖ Sharing with your Homestay Participant a Thanksgiving meal and joining in conversation about this historic tradition and its significance to the United States of America and/or to your family.

If you have further questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Brittany Longsdorf at Marsh Chapel (617-358-3399 or britt1@bu.edu), Cambria Davies (cambria@bu.edu), or Sarah Miller (svmiller@bu.edu)