

Hosting Tips

- You are responsible for providing breakfast each day and lunch/dinner as appropriate to our schedule, and to pack a lunch for your guest for their trip home. It is fine to eat at home or at a restaurant. If you do eat at a restaurant, it is customary that you take care of the bill including the tip. Family meals would be great, they will enjoy getting to know you and your family.
- You will need to provide or arrange for transportation for your guest to get to school. If you are not able to attend an event, check with another hosting family to see if they can help provide transportation. Also, if you have another obligation that you cannot invite your guest to, ask another HATB family or me (Mrs. Vanover) to entertain them during that time. You may want to ask your guest if they are interested in attending with you, there are some things that we would think are boring that they might enjoy - for example your (son/daughter's) soccer game.
- Plan to spend some time shopping with them, maybe 2-3 hours, if they are interested. The purpose of the HATB program is a cultural exchange and shopping is part of our culture, although there is so much more to show them while they are here. Also, be aware that they will probably want to shop at more moderately priced stores like Target, Wal-mart, Ross, TJ Max, Marshalls.
- During free time, you might consider something that will help them to understand our area and culture, and your family routines. Some examples may be Heard Museum, Mesa Historical Museum, Desert Botanical Garden, Tempe Arts Festival, Zoo, and Bank One Ballpark.
- Relationships are very important to our guests. It is not the amount of money or time that you spend, it is the quality of time. Spending time with you and your family is what is important. This may include meeting extended family. This may help them to feel comfortable, as family is an important part of Mexican culture.
- It is customary to give a small gift to your guest. It is best if it is something that represents you, your family, or the area. A few ideas are: a picture of your family, key chain, a momento from Arizona, something homemade including baked goodies, and books. You may also consult the Gift Ideas sheet on the website.
- It is not necessary to speak Spanish to communicate with your guest. Your guest may or may not speak English. Use hand gestures, drawings, and dictionaries to get your ideas across. A great family activity is to make drawings and teach each other the words. Other good activities include looking through picture albums or magazines together and watching movies (DVD's often have Spanish subtitles). Try to go for the general meaning of things without stressing the details.

I hope this helps a little. Please feel free to call Mrs. Vanover at any time (do NOT count on me checking my voicemail during the exchange) if you need anything!