

How to Make Home Hospitality a Success

Shlichim are expected to...

- Be a responsible and caring member of the family
- Share his/her culture and customs with hosts and community
- Have open communication with camp directors, host families and the Jewish Agency
- Uphold their commitment to all participating parties

Upon the Shaliach's/Shlicha's arrival:

- Remind your Shaliach/Shlicha to call home and let their families know that they have arrived safely to your home.
- Familiarize them with your household and let them know what they can and cannot use. Show them where the food and linens are kept and how to operate such household appliances as the dishwasher, laundry machine and coffee maker. Please keep in mind that North American electronics operate differently than Israeli ones do.
- Suggest a house meeting early on to discuss house rules and expectations, guests, curfew, how to do laundry, meals, phone use and so on. Communication must be open and honest. Try to make the Shaliach/Shlicha feel welcome as a guest, but responsible like a family member.
- Make the Shaliach/Shlicha feel welcome by showing them around your immediate neighborhood. Point out the closest bank, bus stop, good places to eat or drink coffee, movie theatres, and anything else that you think would be of interest. You may want to use this as a first opportunity to introduce your guest to some of your neighborhood friends.
- Do things as a "family," yet remember to give the Shaliach/Shlicha space to appropriately experience his/her new environment.
- Try to make any and all transitions as smooth as possible for both your family and the Shaliach/Shlicha.

Host Family Guidelines

Please read the following guidelines carefully. They are based on suggestions from our past experiences and include input from previous host families. These should not be read as strict rules, rather as recommendations to optimize your time with your Israeli guest.

- Host families should provide their Shaliach/Shlichah with comfortable living conditions that offer as much privacy as possible. If the Shaliach/Shlichah is sharing a room, it **MUST** be with a person of the same gender. The Shaliach/Shlichah should not share a room with a family member that is younger than age thirteen.
- The Shlichim are provided phone cards to cover the cost of their first long distance calls to Israel. They have also been instructed to ask permission prior to making long distance telephone calls. They generally have smart phones and can use apps to make long distance calls so you may not have to deal with this at all!
- The Shaliach/Shlichah is expected to help around the house with general chores such as meal preparations and clean ups. Families should explain their children's responsibilities in the home and can expect similar contributions from the Shaliach/Shlichah. While the Shaliach/Shlichah should chip in, he/she is not hired help, or a full time, unpaid babysitter.
- We suggest that the host family provide the Shaliach/Shlichah with a set of house keys.
- The Camp Manager should inform you of any special dietary needs such as Kashrut, vegetarian or allergies prior to your Israeli guest's arrival. In general, we encourage Shlichim to eat what their host family eats. However, we suggest that you take your Shaliach/Shlichah to the grocery store early on and help them pick out a few favorite snacks. Please inform the Shaliach/Shlichah if you have family members with allergies to certain foods or special dietary needs.
- Host families are requested to provide all meals for the Shlichim, including lunch to bring to camp.
- Every Shaliach/Shlichah should carry their host family's name, address, and telephone numbers at all times. They should also keep a copy of their camp's name, director and phone number with them in case of emergency.
- All Shlichim have medical insurance provided by the Summer Shlichim Program. If the Shaliach/Shlichah should become ill or injured during his/her stay at your home, please arrange for a doctor's visit. The Shaliach/Shlichah is responsible for all bills under \$200. Anything over that amount should be forwarded directly to the camp director, **not paid by you.**
- Host families are not expected to host the Shaliach's/Shlichah's visitors. Shlichim can only have visitors stay with them if the host family grants permission.
- Camp Shelanu will make arrangements with you to get the Shaliach/Shlichah to and from camp. In general, we schedule families to host during weeks when their children are attending Camp Shelanu.

- Shlichim come to North America with a desire to experience its lifestyle. Please include your Shaliach/Shlichah in some family activities and outings. Please note that it is not acceptable for Shlichim to miss days at camp for family outings/vacations.
- Shlichim are allowed to travel on the weekends. Please help them decipher bus and train schedules if need be. We suggest that the Shaliach/Shlichah coordinate their departure and arrival times with the host family.

During the Summer:

- Communicate with your Shaliach/Shlichah on a regular basis. Don't let small misunderstandings lead to larger conflicts. Israelis tend to be much more direct than Canadians and will most likely appreciate you being open and honest with any concerns that you may have.
- Remember you are not alone. The Camp Shelanu Leadership Team is there to guide you and is always available to help you out! Stay in touch with us. We are available throughout the summer to answer any questions or concerns. Nothing is too trivial!