



HOMESTAY DEFINITION:

“A stay at a residence by a traveler and especially by a visiting foreign student who is hosted by a local family”

Hello and thank you for reaching out to us and sharing your interest in hosting a student through the Red Deer Public School Division (RDPSD) HomeStay program. The framework of our program is based on community.

Creating community is ultimately defined through joint possession, enjoyment and liability. Everyone is considered an owner, an investor and a contributor, thus creating the feeling of belonging. By having strong supportive, diverse host families we attract diverse, caring, strong students and create the best environment for both students and hosts.

These are the things that set us apart and assist us in better guiding our students on their lifelong journeys.

We are always looking for great hosts who want to provide an amazing experience to a high school student for either a full term (10 months), a full semester (5 months), 3 months or respite (1-14 days). Red Deer Public Homestay strives to ensure the best possible experience for both student and host. We will provide you with the support you need to make this a mutually fulfilling experience.

These high school students come from all over the world and must have a certain level of English language proficiency. There are ranges in these language skills, but for the most part they are able to navigate the school and culture in Canada successfully.

Please take a moment to watch this short video below created by our hosts and students describing our program from their perspectives.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



What our hosts provide

Students are to be considered a *member of the family*, keeping in mind that they are between 15 and 18 years old and some are away from home for the very first time. While in the program they must follow not only the program rules, but also your house rules and expectations. This would include doing some chores, respecting curfews, helping with meals and participating in your family activities. If you are selected as a Host Family, you will be provided the tools and a support team to assist you and your student in your new adventure. Your goal is to create an environment that is conducive to these kids learning, growing and experiencing our community and by doing so you will reap the rewards of giving a young person a lifelong experience and creating amazing relationships for your family as well.

Hosts are required to provide a private bedroom with a window (must meet current code standards), provide appropriate bedding, dresser, closet/wardrobe, lamp, bedside table, desk or study area and . Students will have access to the common living areas of the house and amenities including TV's, electronics and seating areas. Access to hygiene facilities, linens and basic bathing supplies. Students will require access to laundry facilities and supplies as well as training on how to use these appliances. Hosts will also provide access to three wholesome meals a day, one of which will be a hot meal and snacks as required.

As of September 2024 our hosts will receive \$875/month reimbursement to offset the cost of shelter and groceries, as well as other incidentals. Hosts are expected to pick up and drop off their students from the airport and will receive additional compensation for this travel. There is also additional reimbursement to hosts who are able to provide various special diets required for some students.

Upon arrival students are provided a bus pass for independence in the city but will also occasionally require their hosts assistance with transportation due to transit limitations.

We know things happen and if you have a family emergency or have a trip planned and need respite for your student we do have hosts available to provide coverage.

Sandi Ringham, your local RDPSD homestay coordinator, is available for assistance with any questions you may have. Please phone or text 587-679-0791 or email homestay@rdpsd.ab.ca



APPLICATION PROCESS:

We require criminal record and intervention checks for everyone living in the home over the age of 18 years.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK APPLICATION: [CLICK HERE](#)

- MUST BE VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK
- Purpose of check is: *Foster Care and Homestay/Exchange student*
- Position title is *Homestay host. In home hosting of International students*

CHILD INTERVENTION RECORD CHECK: [CLICK HERE](#)

Please complete the above linked digital IRC form and send with the accepted copies of identification to: CS.IRCcentral@gov.ab.ca

Examples of accepted forms of ID: driver's license, AB identification card, Treaty status card, AHC, rearms license, birth certificate, passport. Do not send a copy of your Social Insurance Number.

Before submitting your IRC request, please ensure you have:

- Entered your personal information - name, complete address, aliases, children, DOBs, etc. If the postal code does not work please put it in after the city.
- Identified the organization & type of position you are applying for RED DEER PUBLIC SCHOOLS - HOMESTAY PROGRAM - HOST PARENT
- Typed your name and date at the bottom of both sections 1 & 2 to verify the information provided is correct and to consent to having the check completed (ensure you check the box in front as well).
- Ensured that the completed IRC form is attached as a PDF
- No pictures, apps or web links please as we are unable to open them.
- Attached the copies of your ID

We have been told that processing times may take up to 30 business days
If you become an approved host family, you can be reimbursed for up to 2 vulnerable sector checks per household if you provide receipts.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR THE ABOVE CHECKS TO COME BACK TO YOU BEFORE YOU PROCEED WITH THE NEXT STEPS



APPLICATION PROCESS (cont'd):

HOMESTAY APPLICATION - [CLICK HERE](#)

This document is for the Red Deer Public School Division (RDPSD) HomeStay database. The information gathered here is what is used to create your host profile. It describes you and your family, your home life, recreation likes and why you wish to host with us. It requires pictures of your family, your home and the prospective students bedroom. This profile is eventually shared with students and their families to allow them to “get to know you” prior to arrival. You are encouraged to read through this application and gather all the necessary pictures prior to starting. You will be able to save your progress and return to the application repeatedly, but it will time out within 21 days. Once you have submitted the homestay application, the coordinator will reach out to you to set up a home visit to meet your family and view your home. During the visit the coordinator will have you read and sign a Homestay Letter of Agreement which is the contract between host and the Red Deer Public School Division.

All correspondence and documents should be emailed to the HomeStay Coordinator at: homestay@rdpsd.ab.ca. Your coordinator is also available by phone or text at **587-679-0791**.

We look forward to meeting you and your family and if you know of someone who may also be interested in hosting for RDPSD Homestay please let us know! We will provide you with a **\$200.00** finders fee after they complete hosting a student for 2 months.



We believe that it takes a village to host a student and we would love to have you join ours!