
Friendship Family Program

Rinker Center for International Programs

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the friendship family program?

A: The Rinker Center matches international students with local families and singles. The goal is for the student to learn about and experience American culture outside of Ball State. We also hope that the student will share his or her culture with you and your family.

Q: What do you do?

A: Activities with friendship families depend on the interests of the family and student. Activities previous friendship families have done together include trips to the grocery store, watching a movie, going out for coffee, attending plays and concerts here at Ball State, visiting an apple orchard, pumpkin carving for Halloween, dying Easter eggs, celebrating holidays, etc.

Q: Does the student live with me and my family?

A: No, the student will not live with you and your family. If you are comfortable with the student and would like to invite him or her to stay at your home during holiday breaks you are welcome to do so. Also, the friendship family does not provide any financial assistance.

Q: Do I need to do something with my student every week?

A: No, but we do ask that you do something with your student at least once a month. This is an exciting opportunity for you and the student, and it does require a small time commitment.

Q: How do I sign up for the friendship family program?

A: Please fill out a friendship family questionnaire at the Rinker Center for International Programs (Student Center, room 102). You can also contact rcipevents@bsu.edu for an application. After you fill it out please return it to RCIP (Ball State, SC 102 Muncie, IN 47306) or electronically at rcipevents@bsu.edu.

After we receive the form, your name will go on a list, and we will match you with a student as soon as one is available!

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The Friendship Family Program is a great opportunity to share your culture while learning about another.

Expectations of Friendship Families:

- *Provide practical assistance to help student settle into their new environment
- *Provide caring, friendly, emotional support
- *Invite student to family activities, as appropriate
- *For more detailed expectations please see the friendship family program description attached or contact the Rinker Center for International Programs at 765-285-5422

Friendship Families **DO NOT** provide financial assistance to the student.

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1. Contact Person: Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____
 2. Other adults in household: _____
 3. Children: _____
(please list approximate ages of children)
 4. Address: _____
 5. Telephone: _____ 6. E-mail: _____
 7. Do you or does someone in your household smoke? _____
 8. Do you have a pet(s), if yes what kind? _____
 9. If a BSU employee, what is your campus mailing address? _____
 10. Languages spoken in the household besides English: _____
 11. What are your interests, hobbies and/or activities? _____

 12. What activities would you like to do with your friendship student? _____

 13. Are you a current student at Ball State University? If yes what year? _____
 14. Are you an alumnus of Ball State University? If yes what year did you graduate? _____
 15. Important information not previously listed which may affect placement of students: _____

16. I would like to have: one _____ or more _____ friendship students beginning _____
17. I would like to have a student here on exchange _____ (one semester to one year), here for an extended period of time _____ (two to four years). *(please check one)*
18. Gender preference *(please circle)*: male female married couple family any
19. Country and/or language preferred: _____
20. Major preferred: _____ 21. Smoker or non-smoker: _____
22. Please indicate if you will accept a student with cultural or medical diet restrictions: yes _____ no _____
23. Name, relationship and phone number of reference: _____

***During the placement process a Rinker Center staff member may contact you with further questions to help facilitate a match with a Friendship Family student applicant**.*

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Waiver: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Friendship Family Program (herein after referred to as "Activity"), I, for myself, for my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, **do hereby release, waive discharge and covenant not to sue the Rinker Center for International Programs and/or Ball State University** and their Boards of Trustees, their officers, their directors, their employees, their agents, their volunteers, their members and assigns, and any **and all other participants in said Activity and any and all Ball State University students and/or any and all Ball State University Alumni** and/or any and all Ball State University faculty and staff from **liability from any and all claims** resulting in personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss, regardless of fault, arising from, but not limited to, participating in the Activity.

Assumption of Risks: Participating in the Activity carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another. **I have read the previous paragraph and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent** in the Activity. I hereby **assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.**

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD Ball State University's **Rinker Center for International Programs and/or Ball State University** and their Boards of Trustees, their officers, their directors, their employees, their agents, their volunteers, their members and assigns, **and any and all other participants in said Activity and any and all Ball State University students and/or any and all Ball State University Alumni** and/or any and all Ball State University faculty and staff HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my own/my daughter's/my son's/the minor's, of whom I am Guardian, involvement in said Activity and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of Indiana and if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full elgal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms and **understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

If you are submitting this form electronically, the typing of your name in the space below will constitute your signature and your agreement to participate according to the terms above.

Participant Signature

Date

****The Rinker Center makes every attempt to match Friendship Family applicants with international students based on completed Friendship Family application compatibility questions. Preferences for the number of students preferred, gender and smoker/non-smoker are usually able to be met, with few exceptions. However, the Friendship Family Program is not able to guarantee a match with a student from a specific country, studying a specific major or who speaks a specific language. We ask for your flexibility on these criteria, if possible.****

Please return completed applications using the contact information below:



Friendship Family Program

Rinker Center for International Programs
Student Center, Room 102
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

phone | 765.285.5422

fax | 765.285.3710

e-mail | rcipevents@bsu.edu