

Events Coordinator

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Dear NAME,

Hello! First and foremost the Rinker Center for International Programs would like to thank you for being a friendship family! The friendship family program is a very rewarding program for our international students as they try to acclimate themselves to American society. It is also a rewarding program for the families because they have the opportunity to learn about different cultures from the comfort of home!

By now you should have received an e-mail with basic information about your new friendship student(s). I have included that same information below as well as attached the student's friendship family questionnaire. The student's responses might be able to help you break the ice with him or her and plan initial activities.

Your new friendship student is FULL NAME. FIRST NAME is from COUNTRY. HE/SHE is studying MAJOR here at Ball State University. You can contact HIM/HER at E-MAIL ADDRESS.

Initial contact with your friendship student might be delayed – e-mail is not as commonly used in many countries as it is here in the United States. Also, your student might be a bit shy in the beginning as he or she is getting accustomed to American culture and speaking more English. Please do not interpret this type of response as disinterest on his/her part! We recommend you initiate contact through e-mail because many students are more comfortable with reading and writing in English compared to spoken English. After making initial contact you can begin planning activities to do together. Experience shows that once you have your first activity subsequent activities will be easier to plan because the student typically feels more comfortable.

If you have any questions or concerns about the program please let us know! You can contact us at rcipevents@bsu.edu or 765-285-5422.

We look forward to working with you through the friendship family program!

Trevor Foley

RCIP Events Coordinator

Mindy Ward

RCIP Events Graduate Assistant

Friendship Family Activities

Attend a local athletic event – football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, etc.

Celebrate holidays together (both your holidays and their holidays)

Carve Jack o'Lanterns for Halloween

Decorate a Christmas tree

Dye Easter eggs

Make a meal together – students are eager to try American food as well as share with you a dish typical to their home country

Meet for coffee

Have a game night

Visit local Muncie sights like Minnetrista, National Model Aviation Museum, etc

Have a movie night at home

Take a trip to Indianapolis to visit the zoo, watch a Colt's game or explore the art museum

Visit a local apple orchard

Go shopping together – visit a grocery store, the local farmer's market, browse the Muncie mall, or bring your student on a shopping excursion to Indianapolis or an outlet mall

Attend events on campus – a play at Emens, an event at the Rinker Center or a game at Scheumann stadium

Take day trips around the area – Shipshewana, King's Island, Chicago

Invite your student to take part in everyday family activities – go for a bike ride, for a walk, a barbecue in your backyard, etc

Go bowling

Introduce them to your family traditions

**Remember what might seem mundane for you is often something new and interesting for an international student!*