



HOST FAMILIES GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in being a host family to the Shinshinim!

A Shinshin is an 18-year-old Israeli emissary who defers their army service for one year to volunteer in Jewish communities abroad with the goal of educating people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture.

Our goal is for each Shinshin to be placed in a warm, loving Jewish home. Ideally, each family will host a Shinshin for about 12 weeks. It is preferable that Shinshinim stay with American host families in order for the Shinshin to have the opportunity of a complete immersion experience in the American culture and life.

An important component of the program is the relationship developed with host families which we hope continues even after the Shinshin returns back to Israel. Hosting has proved to be a wonderful experience not only for the host family but for the Shinshinim as well. A family who is interested in being a host family will have to fill out a short application and provide copies of the host parents' driver licenses to run a basic background check. We will conduct an interview at the house and do a tour of the "to be" accommodations of the Shinshin.

The Shinshin should be considered as part the host family. Host parents are caregivers making sure that the Shinshin is properly housed, fed, and protected from harm. There are a few requirements that need to be met in order to be a host family:

- The Shinshin will have a dedicated bedroom that is not used for other family needs (i.e. TV or computer room). A dedicated bathroom is **not** required. A room in the basement will be allowed as long as there is an accessible exit from the basement.
- Each Shinshin will have a car so a parking space will be required (street parking is fine).
- It is desired that all family members have time to dedicate to spending time with the Shinshinim and each other i.e. regular family meals, family activities, etc.
- At least one host parent shall always be in town while the Shinshin is staying at their home. If all adults from the host family will be away from their home overnight, we will make alternate short-term overnight arrangements for the Shinshin.
- Host families are responsible for providing food.

If you have any questions, need more information or if you would like to begin the application process, please contact the Manager of Israel Emissary Initiatives:

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