

JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE

Guidelines



Being a Community Sponsor

The Joint Forces Staff College receives an average of 120 International Fellows a year. These students reside on campus and attend courses that span from a three-month to an eleven-month period.



During their stay, we ask members of our local community to act as sponsors. The sponsor plays a very important role in developing friendships with international fellows as well as educating them to the American way of life.

For many international fellows, this will be their first trip to the United States. They are looking for answers to many questions about our country and society. You can be very helpful in answering these questions as well as offering advice and assistance on such things as local transportation, recreational facilities, historical points of interest and shopping.

JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE
International Military Student Office
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Norfolk, VA 23511-1702

Phone: 757-443-6626
Fax: 757-443-6220
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COMMUNITY SPONSOR PROGRAM

Responsibilities

*The primary duty of a sponsor is to assist in the initial transition and adjustment of the International Military Student (IMS). All Sponsors will contact their incoming IMS as soon as appropriate following their selection as a sponsor. Also, it is highly encouraged that you host an event in your home. Special programs are in place to aid the newly arrived IMS. As a sponsor, you should be familiar with your own city, state, and country. Be prepared to answer **LOTS** of questions.*

Guidelines

Invitations. When you extend an invitation, be sure it is clear in explaining the time, place, type of activity and type of dress require.

Tardiness. Concepts of what is "on time" is not as rigid in other countries as in the United States. In many countries, it is rude to be prompt. You may want to pick the student up the first time so that he understands the importance of being on time.



Food and Drink. Be considerate of your guest's basic food restrictions imposed by religious or cultural traditions (e.g., pork, alcohol). All you need do is ask! Small portions are desirable for the student to whom our foods may be strange. Second helpings should be offered more than once as in some countries it is polite to decline a second helping the first time it is offered.

Gifts. Exchange of gifts will depend on each sponsor/IMS relationship. You should be careful not to obligate the IMS or feel obligated yourself. Gestures of friendliness should not be a burden either financially or socially. Remember that many cultures believe strongly in returning favors and gifts with greater favors or gifts. Be careful that you do not place your guest in an awkward position where he or she will feel obligated to reciprocate, but may not be able to. A card of social invitation would serve well in acknowledging special occasions.

Hospitality Hints

The key to successful sponsorship is communication. Put yourself in the place of the IMS— a stranger in a foreign land , cut off from all things familiar— and treat him as you would like to be treated in his country.

- Initial contact is the most important in getting things started on the right track
- IMS will require more assistance , because while they speak English, they will not be familiar with our slang and colloquialisms
- At minimum we ask you stay involved for the first four weeks of the course of study
- The types of activities you invite your IMS to participate in are at your discretion.



“Ideally we hope that you develop a long term friendship that will continue throughout your lifetime.”

- **Geri Wilson**