

Christmas International House • A Holiday of Friendship

Christmas International House gives you the opportunity to...

- make friends with Americans and other international students
- experience the celebration of Christmas with an American family
- visit another region of the United States

What is Christmas International House?

Christmas International House (CIH) was formed in West Virginia in 1965, to meet the needs of international students who were unable to go home at Christmas. CIH has since grown to include approximately 50 programs across the United States.

CIH is an ecumenical program of hospitality. Participating groups include Presbyterian, Mennonite, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Methodist, and Baptist congregations and secular community groups.

You can stay either with an American host family or in a group housing situation. Each program varies in size and in the group activities that are provided. Most include tours, sightseeing, dinners, discussions, dances, and other forms of fellowship.

You will probably be invited to attend Christmas worship service, but religious conversion is **not** part of the CIH program. It is a peacemaking program, working to improve relations among peoples of the world. It is an outreach to our country's new international

students who may want to share the holiday season with a family.

Who Can Participate?

Any international student, 18 years of age or older, who is studying at a US university, college, or intensive English program, on an "F" or "J" or "M" visa, is welcome to apply to Christmas International House.

Because the intent of the program is to welcome newcomers to the United States, preference is given to students who have recently arrived here. Every effort will be made to achieve an international and college participation mix in each program. Select a variety of programs, list several interests, and do not try to be placed in the same program with all of your friends.

Where Can I Go?

Churches and community groups in towns and cities throughout the US welcome international students for the holidays by offering a CIH program. These programs are located all over the United States.

By participating in a CIH program, you may get acquainted with the Amish way of life, enjoy seaside towns, visit a US Space Center, dig for diamonds, visit a chocolate factory, see a NASCAR race track, or witness the nation's government at work.

What Does It Cost to Participate?

A modest registration fee must accompany your application form. The registration fee is refunded if you are not offered a placement in a program. You must pay for your own transportation to and from the program in which you are placed. Room and meals are provided at no cost.

Some programs may ask you to pay admission fees to special attractions. This will be specified on the particular web site and in the packet you receive from your program coordinator.

How Do I Apply?

In early September, your International Advisors will have information on all the Christmas International House programs available for the upcoming season. You can also visit the official CIH web site to read descriptions of all the programs available for the holidays. Read carefully the frequently asked questions. Fill out the application form directly on the web site. Complete all blanks on the form and print it.

Mail the application form with a copy of your student ID or class schedule, and a check or money order for the registration fee to the CIH Registration Office. It is important to send your application early. The CIH Registration Office begins accepting applications the beginning of October.

What are my obligations?

You are encouraged to specify at least three or more CIH programs you would like to attend. Be sure, however, to write down only those programs to which you would be willing to go.

Group activities are planned for the entire two weeks of the program. You are expected to arrive at the beginning of the program and stay until the end. CIH is not intended to be a motel, nor a place to catch up with friends not in the program, nor a stopover for students who want to tour the US over the holidays.

It is your responsibility to notify your program coordinators immediately if your plans for the Christmas holidays change. The Hosts really look forward to your visit and plan special activities. Cancellations are really discouraged.

With all of this in mind, we hope you will send in your application and join us for a

A Holiday of Friendship!



Christmas International House

www.ChristmasIH.org

A friendship program for international students offering a “home away from home” for two weeks at Christmas time

Approximate dates:
December 18 to January 2

Member of NAFSA

www.Christmasih.org

Visit the official CIH web site for more information and an application form

Christmas International House
3434 Roswell Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30305-1202
404-846-4396 404-846-4397(fax)
amis@peachtreepres.org