

## RILKE SCHULE/AMITY INTERNSHIP HOST FAMILY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FOR INTERESTED FAMILIES

*This information is about becoming a host family for an intern teacher, not for hosting an exchange student for our middle-school exchange trips.*

**Thank you for your interest in hosting an intern teacher for Rilke Schule!**

### How do I sign up to become a host family?

- If you already know you'd like to host, the first step is to return the Host Family information Form [Host Family Fact Sheet](#) to the school office, or directly to the Intern Coordinator via email to [rilkeinterns@asdk12.org](mailto:rilkeinterns@asdk12.org). The Coordinator will contact you to set up a preliminary interview and answer any further questions you may have.
- After you read through these FAQs, and fill out the host family information form [Host Family Fact Sheet](#), the Intern Coordinator will meet with you in person to go over more details. A home visit is also required, including visual inspection of the room the intern will occupy, and meeting all members of the host family including part-time residents.
- If you have any questions after reading all this, please contact the Intern Coordinator at [rilkeinterns@asdk12.org](mailto:rilkeinterns@asdk12.org)

### How long does the intern stay with my family?

- **Most interns stay for one standard semester.** Sometimes their agreement is for slightly longer, like August to February, and occasionally we have an intern scheduled to stay for the whole school year.
- **The minimum commitment for hosting is 8 weeks,** but usually the families host for the full semester. If an intern is staying longer than one semester, the hosting duties are usually split between two or more families.
- **What if we don't get along?** The coordinator's role is to make sure that both the intern and the host family are happy and comfortable with each other. Training is given to the host families and potential pitfalls are addressed in advance. Interns are also provided with orientation to typical American culture and family life. However, very rarely, a host family and an intern have communication problems or are simply not compatible. If this happens, the coordinator will assist in working out communication problems or in placing the intern with a different host family.

- **Host families often enjoy hosting so much that they host repeatedly**, with some of our families having hosted more than 5 times, and many having hosted at least three times. Families often stay in contact with “their” interns and many end up seeing each other again, in Europe or Alaska.

### **What does it mean to provide room and board?**

- **Host families provide room and board for the intern while they are living in their home.** This includes normal groceries and, for example, if you go out to dinner as a family you would pay for the intern's dinner along with the rest of your family. It would not include the interns' food or social expenses when they go out with their friends, or if the intern requires food outside of what you normally eat as a family.
- **The intern's bedroom must be private, with a door that locks.** They can share a bathroom with other family members.
- **Your home needs to be reasonably clean and cared for.** This does not mean that there is never a toy out of place, but that an effort is made to keep the house generally clean and orderly; those chores and keeping up with the dishes, pets, and laundry are part of the family routine.

### **What about transportation?**

- **The host family provides rides to and from school.** The interns usually work at Rilke 4 days per week, on a pre-set schedule with a regular day off each week.
- **Carpooling assistance is usually possible.** The Intern Coordinator will assist in this area as needed. Even if your children do not go directly home from school, it is important that the intern is able to go home.
- **The host parents should plan on helping the intern get around town.** If you live near public transportation, help them get used to our bus system. If you don't, then please be ready to help them with things like rides to the mall or to spend time with friends.

### **Who are the interns?**

- **The interns are German, Austrian or Swiss university students** coming to work as guest teachers at our school. They are usually between 22 and 26 years old. They complete background checks and a lengthy application process before being considered for an internship.

- **They are unpaid interns, not employees of the school.** They receive a small stipend as mandated by their exchange program but are not paid a wage. They are not allowed to work for a wage due to the requirements of their visa. •
- **They want to live with an American family and experience the diversity of American family cultures.** Host family experiences offer the chance for true cultural exchange and getting to know a person/family beyond stereotypes. It also offers the interns a chance to use and learn authentic American English - since they speak German at school all day it is particularly important that English is one of the languages spoken in the host home.
- **They are not “au pair” and are not permitted or expected to provide childcare or housekeeping services for the host family.** They do participate in normal family life and as such would help with chores, and family activities as much as anyone else in the family.

### How many Interns are there?

- **We plan to have about 10 interns for the school year, 5 per semester.** This means we need a minimum of 10 host families each year.
- **Rilke Schule has hosted more than 100 interns since the school opened its doors in the 2007-2008 school year.** Our program is only possible and successful because of the dedication of our host families over the years.

### Why an intern program?

- **Our intern program has been incredibly positive and beneficial to our school community.** In fact, two of our current full-time German teachers are former intern teachers.
- **Interns provide invaluable native-speaking support in our classrooms.** They supplement and assist in the instruction led by our regular classroom teachers.
- **Cultural exchange with German speaking countries is one of the cornerstones of our school’s mission,** including student exchanges with Fulda and Frankfurt at the middle school level, and the internship program on a school-wide basis.
- **Interns come from all over Germany and other German speaking countries, enriching our students’ experience of the diversity of German cultures, languages and accents.** In the past we’ve had students from as far north as Bremen and Lübeck, and as far south as Basel (Schweiz) and München, as far west as Aachen, and as far east as Görlitz.