



PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS

Oregon-Costa Rica High School Exchange Program 4-Week Hosting Program

WHO COMES?

25 Costa Rican high school students will be in Oregon for eight weeks and will each live with two families and attend school. They are accompanied by two chaperones.

WHEN?

Oregon families may host a Costa Rican student for one of the following 4-week sessions:

- 1) December 9, 2017 – January 6, 2018 **OR** 2) January 7, 2018 – February 3, 2018

WHY?

Costa Rican students come to Oregon to improve their English skills, attend high school, and experience family life in Oregon. Oregon families get to learn about Costa Rica and make long-lasting friendships.

HOW TO APPLY?

All hosting families must have a high school student in the household. If you and your family are interested in hosting a Costa Rican student, you can complete a host family application on our NEW website at: <http://www.partnersorcr.com> or contact the Host Program Coordinators:

Jane Rubio - 541-659-5515
Annette Navarro - 503-969.0083
Email: hostatico@gmail.com

The deadline for turning in your completed application is October 6, 2017, we will extend if needed.

TEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) **Can I host with only one parent?**

Absolutely, as long as there is a teenage student living in the house. Costa Rican students come expecting to experience a variety of family lifestyles in Oregon.

2) **Can the Costa Rican student share a bedroom?**

Yes, as long as the same gender student has his/her own bed. A separate room is required for opposite gender.

3) **Does our family have to speak Spanish?**

No! The Costa Rican student comes to Oregon to improve English skills.

4) **Do I have to be taking Spanish to host?** No.

5) **Is it expensive to host?**

Your family is expected to provide room and board for the Costa Rican student. The student brings money for his/her incidental expenses.

6) **What happens if the Costa Rican student gets sick?**

Costa Rican students come to Oregon with their own medical insurance.

7) **Do we have to cook special food?**

No. Let the Costa Rican student experience your normal mealtime routines.

8) **What does the Costa Rican student do about high school?**

The student attends high school with his/her host brother/sister, but does not enroll in separate classes.

9) **What happens if we have questions?**

The two Costa Rican chaperones accompanying the students are in Oregon to assist host families and students. The Oregon Host Program Coordinators and the Exchange Committee are also available to assist you.

10) **What if my family has travel plans?**

Include the Costa Rican student in your plans.

HISTORY

Partners of the Americas (formerly called Partners of the Alliance) originated with President John F. Kennedy. Oregon and Costa Rica became Partners in 1964 and were among six "charter" Partners. The intent is for Latin American countries, regions, cities of larger countries and individual states, or larger cities, to form a partnership to promote friendships, cultural exchanges, and assistance in various forms. Partners are committees of volunteers -- students, schools, business people, professionals, families -- all who are interested in promoting increased understanding and cooperation between Oregon and Costa Rica.

The Oregon/Costa Rican high school student exchange program was "born" in 1966 when a Spanish teacher from Salem, Mrs. Margaret Byers, took five boys and five girls for a few weeks to stay in Costa Rica. A few years later, the Oregon-to-Costa Rica program was "reborn".

In the 1960s, Oregon was looked upon as the "Wild West" by Costa Ricans. The first exchange of Costa Rican students to Oregon was canceled and replaced with a group of Costa Rican teachers and others interested to learn if Oregon was really "wild". The following year students arrived in December to initiate the exchange, which has continued since then.

Two chaperone-counselors accompany 25 students from Costa Rica. The group arrives in December to spend eight weeks in Oregon. The students have spent many weeks going through a "screening process" in Costa Rica. After having been selected, they continue with orientation sessions preparing for their stay in Oregon. The participants are generally well-mannered, young adults looking forward to an experience in Oregon. Some become a bit "homesick" - naturally! However, their chaperones are always available to assist in solving any problems - as are members of the Oregon Partners and, in particular, members of the High School Student Exchange Committee.

The High School Student Exchange Committee arranges for host families for Costa Rican students to live with while they are in Oregon. This committee also selects Oregon students and prepares them to travel to Costa Rica in June, July and August.

PURPOSE

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

- 1) To promote international understanding and friendship between the people of Oregon and the people of Costa Rica;
- 2) To provide students from both countries with the broadening educational experience of living in another culture, with opportunities to develop conversational skills in the language of the host country; and
- 3) To strengthen ties of partnership between Oregon and Costa Rican high school students and their families.

Check us out at our NEW website: <https://www.partnersorcr.com/>