



Oregon - Costa Rica High School 4-Week Hosting Program

WHO COMES?

25 Costa Rican high school students who have been carefully and competitively selected to represent their communities and country will be in Oregon & S.W. Washington for eight weeks. Each student lives with two families and attends two different high schools. They are accompanied by two English-speaking chaperones who regularly check in and provide support for students and host families as needed.

WHEN?

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

1st Session: December 7, 2019 – January 4, 2020

2nd Session: January 5, 2020 – February 2, 2020

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 website or contact the Host Program Coordinators:

Website: www.partnersorcr.com

Email: hostatico@gmail.com

Hosting Coordinators:

Jani VanPelt 971-212-7506 or Jennifer Gingerich 530-201-5331

The deadline for turning in your completed hosting application is October 26, 2019.

WHY HOST A COSTA RICAN HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENT?

- ★ To provide an immersion experience with opportunities to develop conversational skills in English
- ★ To promote international understanding and friendship between the people of Oregon and Costa Rica
- ★ To provide students from both countries with the broadening educational experience of other cultures
- ★ To strengthen ties between Oregon and Costa Rican high school students and their families
- ★ To learn about our 8-week travel opportunity to Costa Rica available for interested students

Check out our website
www.partnersorcr.com



Introductory Video
bit.ly/hostatico



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 Host Program Coordinators and 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 was founded in 1964 as the "people-to-people" component of John F. Kennedy Administration's Alliance for Progress. Oregon and Costa Rica were among six "charter" Partners. The intent was for Latin American countries to form a partnership to promote friendships, cultural exchanges, and assistance in various forms.

In the 1960s, Oregon was looked upon as the "Wild West" by Costa Ricans. The first exchange was 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. The Oregon/Costa Rican high school student exchange program was "born" in 1966 when a Spanish teacher from Salem, Mrs. Margaret Byers, took 10 Oregon students for a few weeks to stay in Costa Rica. The High School Exchange between Oregon and Costa Rica has operated successfully for over **50** years!

Today, Partners is a private, **nonprofit organization**, enjoying the support of countless individuals, international corporations and foundations. 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- August.