



PARTNERS *of the* **AMERICAS**
INDIANA - RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL

Host Families - Brazilian Youth Ambassador Program

Benefits

It's the experience of a lifetime getting to know a friendly and eager "gaucho teen." Host families will learn about the rich Brazilian culture, their beautiful country and a few Portuguese words along the way. They will also get to taste some Brazilian food, expand their family's cultural horizons and make a lifetime friend.

Criteria

Caring Indiana families host a Brazilian teen, ages 15 to 18, from Rio Grande do Sul, Indiana's Partner state.

How long and when

Eight weeks, from approximately the first week in January to the first week in March. Specific dates change each year depending on the holidays and flight availability. These months are fixed to coincide with summer vacation in Brazil.

Participants

Brazilian students and/or their families are all members of Rio Grande do Sul Partners of the Americas. They are selected by a Rio Grande do Sul Partners Committee following a rigorous interview process that evaluates their English proficiency, dedication to volunteerism and especially the work of Partners of the Americas, maturity to live in another culture for an extended period, and qualifications to be good ambassadors for Brazil and Partners of the Americas.

Hosting

Host families must be committed to integrating the Brazilian students into normal family activities. Youth Ambassadors need to participate in school regularly or in a home school program. They are not in school for credit, but they are expected to do homework, take tests, and fully participate in classes. Youth Ambassadors are also expected to perform some type of volunteer service; Indiana Youth Ambassador Coordinators with Partners will help with ideas. Family sightseeing excursions are encouraged. All Youth Ambassadors come with pocket money.

Insurance

Youth Ambassadors have US-authorized health insurance plans that are approved by Partners. They also have medical treatment and travel authorizations signed by their parents.

About the Brazilian state

RIO GRANDE DO SUL is the southernmost state in Brazil, also bordered by Uruguay and Argentina. It is about 3 times the size of Indiana and is known as the Gaucho State. It is rich with the heritage of the proud Gaucho cowboy as well as the German and Italian immigrants who made Rio Grande do Sul their home in the early 1800's. Its capital is Porto Alegre, slightly larger than Indianapolis. The climate is subtropical with four distinct seasons. Participants will come from various parts of the state and from small towns, rural areas or the state capital.

For more information please contact:

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