

HOMESTAY

Information for American Teams

Experience new cultures and make new friends from around the world through Odyssey of the Mind's Homestay Program — **especially** if your team does not make it to World Finals. Participation in the Homestay program benefits both international teams that travel to World Finals and American teams by promoting cultural exchange and friendship. The concept is simple — international teams stay a few days after World Finals with American Odyssey host families. The host families simply show them around their area and allow the international team to experience American life. In return, host families also get to learn about a different culture and extend their family to different parts of the world. It's also a great way to help others. Here are some of the specifics:

- Again: all American teams participating in Odyssey of the Mind may host international teams. American teams do not have to come to World Finals to be Homestay hosts.
- Homestays generally last 3-5 days after World Finals. This year World Finals will take place from Wednesday, May 26 through Saturday May 29, so Homestays will occur after World Finals — the first week of June. Specific arrangements are made between the International and American coaches once they are matched up.
- The Homestay host family provides lodging, meals, and some planned activities — remember it can be anything within your budget. Something as simple as a picnic in a park or a neighborhood baseball game could be a fun and new experience for international teams. International teams are expected to pay any costs relating to their entertainment, meals out, special events, and shopping.
- Transportation costs and arrangements to and from the city of the host family are the responsibility of the international team. Once the international team has arrived, the host families should be able to provide local transportation if possible.

If you would like to help members of the international Odyssey community while making new friends, contact Homestay Coordinator Tom Scott for more information about the Homestay Program.

He can be contacted at: odysseyhomestay@gmail.com

*Find more information about the Homestay Program at
www.odysseyofthemind.com!*

“Yes! We’d definitely do this again. 100% yes. We found ourselves yelling “wake up” in Polish to my own children this morning just out of habit.”

-- Mike and Jojo Fitch, Duncansville, PA

“The memories that were created, the ambassadorship that both teams experienced, could not have been better. We’ve formed lasting friendships that will forever impact our lives in an extraordinarily positive way.”

--Beatrice Showman, Melbourne, FL