

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER WHEN HOSTING

Here's some information we thought, with the help of George Mardikes, would be helpful for you while hosting a student:

1. If your student will be using the bus, MAX, and/or Streetcar, make sure they learn how to ride them.
2. Talk slowly, not loudly. If necessary, write things down.
3. The first evening the student is staying with you, remember to show them where things are and how they work.
4. Be careful of what you feed your student the first day or two. They are trying to get used to the time change and "new" food so their stomachs may be sensitive.
5. It is important to show them how to use the shower (make sure to tell them to put the shower curtain inside the tub). If you have a water-efficient toilet, you will have to explain to them not to use too much toilet paper.
6. Remember that Japanese students will often say yes and/or nod their head but this does not mean they understand. Many times it's their way of showing they are listening.
7. To make sure the student understands what you said, ask them questions about what you just said to make sure.
8. Try not to use double negatives and tag questions because you will probably get the opposite answer. For example, "You have school tomorrow, don't you?" Most Americans will answer yes if they have school but Japanese will answer no.
9. Laundry. Figure out who will do it. Will you do it for them or will you teach them how to do it.
10. Students may be a little reluctant to help themselves to things, even if you say, "Help yourself." So it's a good idea to offer them things like snacks and drinks periodically.
11. Do not give the students too many choices. They probably will not be able to decide, do not know the difference, or try to guess what you want to do. So, try to get an idea of what may interest them and then just do what you think they will enjoy.
12. Some students may want to make Japanese food for you while they are staying here. So it's best to plan the meal early in the program and take them shopping at Uwajimaya or Anzen.
13. Remember that things like Fred Meyer, Costco, and a regular grocery store are different for most Japanese students. So that can be an interesting outing for your student.
14. Remember that this is a learning experience for both parties. So ask your student questions and let them share their culture with you too.