



# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Guangxian from China



Service Ref: 19-00058  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 15 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate: No  
Religion: None

GPA: Good  
Quartile: Not Available  
ELTIS: 221

Guangxian is described as a friendly, outgoing, easygoing person with a generous spirit. He is confident and likes to make people feel happy. He likes to stay active and his favorite sports are badminton and basketball. In his down time, Guangxian enjoys reading or watching movies with his family. He loves to travel and explore and is excited to spend a year in the U.S. experiencing our culture and improving his English skills. In his future Guangxian hopes to pursue a career in finance and the city of his dreams is to live in Shanghai. Guangxian is looking forward to meeting his AFS family!

## Good to Know

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Cats & dogs ok

For more information, contact: **Kathy Harenski**

412-848-3952 | [kharenski@icloud.com](mailto:kharenski@icloud.com)

**[afsusa.org/host](http://afsusa.org/host) | 1.800.AFS.INFO**

In accordance with US Department of State Regulations, host families of J-1 exchange students must be fully screened and accepted before viewing actual student photos. To initiate the screening process, start our hosting application today.

Dear host family:

Hello, my name is James. I come from a beautiful city in South China. It's my honor to meet you in a long distant country, and I hope I can bring you happiness.

I'm a lively, generous and easygoing boy in the eyes of my parents and friends.

I get along well with my family and friends. I'm the only child in my family. In general, my parents do not force me to do the thing I'm not interested in, which makes me be a person who has my own idea. Sometimes I would like to ask my parents for advice about the choice of sports activities and books.

In my spare time, I like reading, playing badminton and music. I think reading can enrich my knowledge, Music can relax myself, and playing badminton can exercise my body. On weekends, I often play badminton, basketball or watch movies with my parents. I like traveling very much. I plan to travel more than twice a year. In the summer vacation of 2018, I attended the National Study Tour in Shandong which was organized by our school, and I went to Beijing and Japan with my parents.

In social interaction, sometimes I am an organizer, sometimes I am a participant. For me, social interaction can promote friendship and cultivate teamwork spirit.

I'm a person who brings happiness to others. I'm an outgoing boy and my friends like to follow me when travelling around, because I'm not shy. I can do something like asking the way and so on.

I got good grades in English when I was in primary school. My parents encouraged me and recommended me to get the VIPKID online English learning. Now, my English is better than before. I will keep studying hard.

After this exchange study, I will continue my high school work. I want to work on finance in the future. I want to enter a university in Shanghai, for Shanghai is the most developed city in finance in our country. It will be an enjoyable thing to learn and work in Shanghai.

Thank you for hosting me in your family for a year. Best wishes to your family!

Yours sincerely,  
James  
21 January 2019



# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Pau from Spain



Service Ref: 19-00271  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 15 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate: No  
Religion: Catholic

GPA: Average/Fair  
Quartile: Q2(Middle-high position)  
ELTIS: 213

Open-minded, happy, and social are how Pau from Spain describes himself. He loves being around his family and friends and is close with his two brothers. In his free time, he plays rugby and loves it. His favorite subject in school is history, as his favorite teacher teaches the class. He also loves all sports classes because he loves staying active. Pau says his main motivation for AFS is to learn about American culture and practice his English. He looks forward to getting involved with the AFS community. Pau is eager to make new friends and bond with his host family during his exchange year!

## Good to Know

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Cats & dogs ok

## Student Audio Introduction

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To learn more about Pau in his own words, please go to [//www.youtube.com/embed/g6mw547V4kY](https://www.youtube.com/embed/g6mw547V4kY).

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Dear host family,

My name is Pau and I would like to introduce myself in this letter.

I think I am an open mind boy and I am always open to meet new people. People around me says I am a happy guy, funny and always willing to do things or move around. My relationship with my family and my friends is very good and I always try to balance time with my family and my friends. I am the youngest of a four members family, my parents, my brother and myself. We are two brothers with two and a half years of difference. When we were younger, our roles were different, my brother has more responsibilities than me but as the time goes on and we grow up our roles become more similar. Now, we both have responsibilities helping the family with some home tasks.

I don't usually ask for advise to my parents because I try to solve issues by myself but when I have a doubt on what to do then I ask for advice or an opinion to my parents. I normally ask for advice if I have to do something or an activity or I have to go anywhere that and I am not sure about. In these situations, I talk to them to know their opinion and be able to take a good decision.

When I was younger, I made several activities after school because I had a lot of free time but now as I grew up, I need more time for the studies and I had to stop some of the activities like soccer or music in order to focus on my studies and rugby, which takes me 5 or 6 hours a week (2 trainings and one match per week). I play rugby since I was 8 years old and I always enjoy it a lot. I find it a very complete sport and I love to play it. After school I study and do my homework except days I have training and normally on Friday afternoon I take a break and go out with friends.

The most frustrating for me are the studies because sometimes I find some difficulties that I find hard to overcome. An example was last year when I failed a classwork that encompasses three different subjects. I was on a big problem because if I didn't pass the exam, I could lose the full year. I was very worried about it, but finally I realized that the solution was to put more efforts and work hard to prepare the exam. I did the exam and I got one of my best scores and I could pass to the next course.

The main motivations to join the AFS program are to know a new culture and to learn English. I would like to go to USA because since I went there in 2012, I wanted to come

back. In 2012 I went to Dallas to visit my father who was there for 6 months for work. I also visited Atlanta and Houston.

My favorite subject at school is history. I really love it, probably due to the teacher. I also like sport as subject, because it doesn't require a big effort for me and I feel relax when I do sport. I believe that it is important to go to school to learn things, but above all I like to improve my perspectives for the future. I think in my qualifications I am slightly below the average of my peers. In the future I would like to study economic or marketing to work on something related to those studies.

My uncle who also is my Godfather has had a good influence on me. From him I learnt to have a good behavior and to be grateful with others. He has thought me through experience and I see him as an example for me.

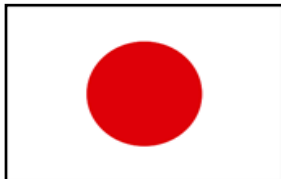
I hope you enjoyed reading my letter and I wish to meet you soon,

Pau



# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Kenshin from Japan



Service Ref: 18-05231  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 15 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate: No  
Religion: None

GPA: Very Good  
Quartile: Q1(Top position)  
ELTIS: 231

Naturally curious, Kenshi is eager to try new things which has propelled him to "think outside the box" and experience life in the "most influential country in the world." His life philosophy is that practice and effort are important to achieving one's goals. He applies this mantra to basketball and the pursuit of success in his school. He is described as cheerful, friendly and easy to be friends with. He is close to his family, who vacation and have weekend dinners together. With his friends, he enjoys movies, outings to amusement parks, ice cream after practice and chatting.

## Good to Know

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Cats & dogs ok

## Student Audio Introduction

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To learn more about Kenshin in his own words, please go to [//www.youtube.com/embed/tyAiLpv9p7E](https://www.youtube.com/embed/tyAiLpv9p7E).

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Dear Host Family,

Hello! Let me introduce myself. My name is Kenshin. I am a 15-year-old Japanese boy who lives in one of the major city in Japan. I am in the third year junior high school.

Playing basketball is the main of my dairy life. I am belonging to basketball club. We practice it almost every day include weekend. I have been playing it since elementary school and now, I am a regular member of the club and leading the team and teammates. To become a good player, practicing every day and making an efforts are important. It can also say that when I study at school. It is physically hard to training basketball every day, but I am happy to play it with my teammates.

I love listening to music. My favorite is Japanese rock music and pop music. I went to music festival and concert three or four times a year with my friends. However, I cannot play any musical instrument. I want to play drum or guitar someday. I also read books. Recently, I read two book a month. My favorite is mystery and adventure story. I can understand author's message though reading books.

My family and friends would describe me that I am cheerful and friendly. And I also told that I am a Jack of all trades and master of none. I agree with these comments. I can make friend easily and often talk to person who has never talked to. I am always cheerful and laughing. One of the people who I have never been in a same class are also my friends. My school is academic-track school, so we are always under pressure by many homework and reports. After we finished practice basketball we eat ice cream in summer, and eat Oden, a type of Japanese hot pot, in winter. We always chatting on SNS silly things. On free day, we enjoy amusement park or movie theater with my friends. I am very happy to spent dairy life like this.

Let me introduce my family. I have parents, a little brother, tortoise and young lizard. My family is friendly. We always help each other and support me even it is difficult problem. My father works very hard so he comes back home very late. So, on weekdays, we have dinner without him. But on weekends, I and my brother go jogging with him and have dinner together. He often go to China for his business trip. I think it is very hard, but he doesn't say any complain. My mother always helps me very much. She has been prepare lunch box nine years. She does all housework by herself. She is also very clever and makes an ingenious device around the house. That makes our life in house very comfortable. She makes all schedule in our house. It helps us very much, so we always thank to her. My little brother is the student of the elementary school. He started playing basketball last year because of my influence. He is not good at it, but he is practicing hard to became good basketball player. His

favorite is to read comics, but he always read my comics without notice. I and he often had a spat because this reason. Even so, I am very close with him. We usually talk nonsense when I stay with him. Our lovely tortoise is very cute. She is active and dig her house at night. When we take her to the garden, she seems relaxed but she tries to escape from the garden. She only eat vegetable but she can live more than a week without eating. A lizard that I raising has very beautiful tangerine skin. We call her "Mikan" because of her color("Mikan" means orange in Japanese). She is young and very cute. She often makes mistake when I feed her. Her main food is crickets. And she is tough too. She can also live a week without eating. We can go long vacation without worry about feeding them. My family sometimes go vacation. When I was six years old, I climbed Mt.Fuji, highest mountain in Japan. And we often visit foreign countries when I was elementary school student. My family go to beach every summer and go skiing every winter. It has a lot of fun.

I could get smartphone one years ago. This is because my parents don't let me have it. But, they allow me to have the smartphone if I get good score in a school exam. I excellently complete the requirement and finally get smartphone from my father. However, it doesn't work well because it is secondhand phone from him. So sometimes it doesn't work well. I asked my parents to buy new smartphone, but they said that I have to reach no.5 in 245 students in the exam in to buy new smartphone. It is very difficult, but I am studying for my new smartphone now.

Fortunately, I have not faced any big difficult problems. Recently my pet, Mikan caught a disease. I took her to hospital and took care of her every day almost two month. Because of it, she recover from the disease and now she is healthy.

I think studying abroad while teenager teach me many experiences that I cannot do in Japan. While I stay unknown place, I want to try many things I have never done. I want to stay long time in United States not just a tourist, too. I applied to go U.S.because it is the most influential country in the world. I want to know the life of most influential country. And, it is the best place to play basketball. I want to train basketball there and be a good player. Also I think U.S has many people than I expecting. So, I want to learn many viewpoint's thought and develop global idea to success overseas in the future.

I have not decided my future or my job. And I don't have plans after I graduate from high school. Though this studying abroad, I want to lay my plan and decide what I want to be.

Thank you for reading my letter. I look forward to seeing you soon. Sincerely yours.

Kenshin





# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Ziad from Saudi Arabia



Service Ref: 19-00002  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 16 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate: No  
Religion: Muslim

GPA: Outstanding  
Quartile:  
ELTIS: 300

With dreams high above the clouds, Ziad is working hard toward his goal of becoming an astronaut--he even was accepted in a special astrobiology enrichment program in the U.S. last summer! An active athlete, Ziad stays busy swimming, playing several sports, and free diving in the ocean! An outgoing leader in his class, he is active in student council, model United Nations, and tutors younger students in science and math. Ziad can't wait to meet new people and try out new things in the U.S., like learning to play piano and violin and taking French classes! Arrival to HF community: August 30th.

## Student Audio Introduction

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To learn more about Ziad in his own words, please go to [//www.youtube.com/embed/ B28\\_EcBO9s](https://www.youtube.com/embed/B28_EcBO9s).

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2019 - 2020



STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last name First name Middle name

# Form 2

## HOST FAMILY LETTER

### INSTRUCTIONS

Write your U.S. host family a letter:

- Introduce yourself and your family. What activities do you enjoy doing together?
- What are your responsibilities at home?
- Describe your interests.
- Tell about your friends. What activities do you like to do together?
- Write two or three sentences to describe your city.
- What plans, if any, do you have for your future and career?
- What else do you want your host family to know about you?
- What would you like to gain from your exchange experience?

Write your letter in English. You may only use both sides of Form 2. Do NOT write outside the box or paste photos on this form. Do NOT include your family name, your relatives' full names, or the name of your city in this letter. This letter will be shared with U.S. host families considering hosting you.

Dear American Family, \_\_\_\_\_

Dear future family,  
 Thanks for taking the time to read my letter and for welcoming me into your home,  
 My name is Ziad and i'm a 16 year old, Don't worry if you're having some trouble pronouncing it, I'll teach you the perfect way to pronounce it when we first meet each other. I have 6 siblings and I'm the middle child, my 2 older brothers are studying in the U.S because they got scholarships to study there, and my older sister is going to go next year as well. I enjoy going to the pool every single Friday to the pool with my Mother and 3 younger siblings. We also gather at least 3 times a day, to have meals together, and during those meals, we're not allowed to use our phones. I love Volleyball, Ping pong, and Freediving they are my 3 favorite sports but I enjoy most if not all sports. I'm really interested in space and Biology as scientific subjects, I even took a 7-week course that combines my favorite 2 subjects in Harvard, it was an 'Astrobiology and space exploration' course. I'm interested in developing myself in every aspect possible, I love Public Speaking, for example, Meeting new people and starting new initiatives to help others. I love reading as well, I enjoy reading all books except for Novels. I always carry a book with me, even when I'm going Freediving in the sea. I really want to learn how to play the Piano and Violin, but I still didn't because my family doesn't approve of that. Although I tried playing Piano when I was at Harvard last summer, for the Harvard Secondary school program, I still don't know how to play the Piano efficiently. So I'm really hoping to learn how to play musical instruments when I'm in the U.S. I also want to learn French, I'm learning French on my own because my school doesn't offer a French course.

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**FORM 2: HOST  
FAMILY LETTER**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name First name Middle name

Ziad

When I go out with my friends, every time we have an adventure of some sort. Because we love trying new things together. We go to bookstores, volunteer at local events, help people if they need help, play some sports etc.. we do anything as long as we are together because we like each other so everywhere we go we are happy. I live in a coastal city, and I really like love that about my city because I love the sea, especially the red sea where I get to dive every weekend. Unfortunately, it gets pretty hot, especially during the summer, where it could reach 120 degrees Fahrenheit! But I got used to it, to be honest. In addition, it's a pretty fun city with many activities to try, and it has lots and lots of huge shopping malls as well.

As for my future career, I'm pursuing my dream of becoming an astronaut. I know it sounds cliché but I will become an astronaut one day hopefully. I took an astronomy in Harvard last summer and I loved it, it was called "Space exploration and astrobiology". I also want to start my own company, I still don't know what type of company it will be, but I will start my first company before I turn 20. There are many things I want to gain from this once in a lifetime experience. First thing is I want to close with my host family, you guys! Thank you so much for welcoming me into your life, and being so nice to me. I'm one of the people that really appreciate family, there's a saying I really like and respect, it goes "Family stays together, always and forever". So, I'm looking forward to meeting, getting to know, and having the best time with you. The second thing I want to gain from this unique experience is more friends. I'm an extrovert, I'm a pretty social person, I feed off other people's happiness. This experience will get me to meet new people and know about their cultures and backgrounds. The last and most important thing is that I want other people to know my own country, and know its culture and traditions. It is one of the most important things I will gain, which is respect for my country. And getting people to actually know my country, its traditions and its people.



# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Simon from Switzerland



Service Ref: 18-01060  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 15 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate: No  
Religion: Christian

GPA: Very Good  
Quartile: Q1(Top position)  
ELTIS: 242

Simon's parents say that he's easygoing, open-minded, and independent--all things that will serve him well when he is studying in the United States. He likes to joke and make people laugh, and he's very close with his brothers and friends. He has a variety of hobbies and interests and likes to play board games, video games, and guitar when he has free time. He also likes watching movies and skiing with his family when they can. He's thrilled to learn about American culture and schooling styles; and he can't wait to improve his English, make new American friends, and get to know his hosts!

## Good to Know

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Celiac/Gluten-Free Diet, Cats & dogs ok

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## Letter for the host family – AFS

Dear host family,

I hope that you're going good and I hope that you'll enjoy reading my letter.

My name is Simon, I am 15 years old and I'll be 16 in the beginning of September, I live in the biggest city of the French speaking Switzerland and I'm going to live the whole next year with you. I think that my friends and my family would describe me as somebody who likes making jokes, happy and outgoing, but sometimes a little stubborn. Most of the people that I meet find me quite polite, probably because of the education that I received from my parents. My friends enjoy being with me and we laugh and are having a lot of fun when we're together. I get quite along with my family. In case of dispute, I try to learn from my mistakes and to act reasonably. I've got two big brothers, one is three years older than me and the other seven. My parents have a lot of brothers and sisters, that makes me a lot of cousins, thirteen in total.

I receive a few remarks from my family, from my brothers who sometimes laugh at me without being serious, my family isn't a family who gives a lot of advices, but we talk a lot to take decisions and they try to tell me the best to do, from their point of view.

School and friends are some really important things to me, because it's at school that us ,students, pass the most part of our days and having friends at school to eat at midday, for example, is really important to me. In my free time I like skiing, playing the guitar, playing computer games with some friends, watching movies and acting. I also practice natation , I swim three times a week in my natation club, and I'd like to continue this sport once I'll be in the United States. I like the speed and slip sensation when I go skiing, I like playing good plays on the guitar and making some efforts during the natation training, despite the fact that I don't like the competitive spirit in this sport. I also always wanted to try surfing, because I like the ocean a lot, even if there isn't any in Switzerland.

There is some things that I find frustrating in the all day's life, like when people say something mean and don't assume it or when people think that they're superior to the others and when they're missing respect to the others.

I didn't live many difficult situations in my life, but I think that the most difficult situation I have to go through is my gluten intolerance, indeed it's sometimes difficult to not have the possibility to eat like everybody else, mostly the bread-based recipes that don't exist in gluten free version, for example when I'm going out with friends and I can't eat in the same restaurant as them. As it is an incurable malady, I'll live all my life with this regime, but the progress of the gluten free gastronomy helps me a lot to support this regime.

During the year which I'm going to stay to the US, I want to learn about the culture of this country and to make me a real opinion of this country, not the vision that want to show us American movies. I also want to get good marks and to finish the school year while having the average, to learn English well, to get a good accent and to get some good friends there. I'll try to socialize quite

quickly with the students from my school and I'll study well to get good marks. I think that it'll be complicated for me to understand people in the United States at the first place, but it will get better quickly. I went to the US and to Canada once and when I went there, it happened well !

I'm a quite good student, my marks are closer to the best mark from the average line and I take school seriously, I do my homework and my revision before having fun, and no school subject gets me in trouble. In matters of subjects, I quite like Law and Music. Indeed I show a big interest to the Law aspects and I like to know the restrictions imposed to the society, I like Music because I always lived in it and everybody in my family plays an instrument. You can distinguish me from some of my friends who sometimes have difficulties at school, in this case I try to help them the best I can, from our different interests at School and from our activities. We are quite different physically speaking, mostly in terms of highness, some of my friends are one year younger or older as me. But we look all similar by the fact that we're all having fun together. After the high school, I'm interested in going to the University, in the medical section and I think I'll take a year of break during which I'll exercise my civils rights, will probably travel abroad and maybe come to visit you in the US !

I think that this year will be an important step of my life and that we will pass good moments together,

Best wishes, Simon.



# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Berkay from Turkey



Service Ref: 18-00526  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 17 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate:  
Religion: Muslim

GPA: Good  
Quartile:  
ELTIS: 227

Interested in languages, Berkay hopes to work at a college as a translator. He is mature and independent, working at a computer store each summer. He loves exercising his body and mind with puzzles, chess, and team sports. Chess is his favorite activity because it is educational, fun, and allows for personal growth. He is sociable and loved by his friends. They remain close by swimming and cycling together. With his parents, Berkay enjoys taking walks and gathering for family dinners each night. He hopes to try new sports like baseball and hockey in the U.S.! Arrival to HF community August 8.

## Student Audio Introduction

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To learn more about Berkay in his own words, please go to [//www.youtube.com/embed/8hpf- Un73Y](https://www.youtube.com/embed/8hpf-Un73Y).

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2019 - 2020

STUDENT NAME:

Last name

First name

Middle name



# Form 2

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### INSTRUCTIONS

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- Describe your interests.
- Tell about your friends. What activities do you like to do together?

- Write two or three sentences to describe your city.
- What plans, if any, do you have for your future and career?
- What else do you want your host family to know about you?
- What would you like to gain from your exchange experience?

Write your letter in English. You may only use both sides of Form 2. Do NOT write outside the box or paste photos on this form. Do NOT include your family name, your relatives' full names, or the name of your city in this letter. This letter will be shared with U.S. host families considering hosting you.

Dear American Family, Hello I am Berkay I am a student. My mother is secretary and my father is technical personnel. The rest of the family are quite big I can say. We generally meet and we don't cut the painter. We enjoy spend time together, take each other's ideas, play games, go for a walk in short we share many things. I help anything at home as much as I can for example repairing, chores etc. My interests are team sports, table games, puzzles and tech hobbies. Also I am open to innovation so I like to try something new and discover it. My friends and I know each other since middle school. We haven't interrupted our relationship since then because we like to do same things together such as cycling, sports, games. My city is the best place for the beaches and the tourists. It is an ancient city. Also with its harbor, it has easy access to the hinterlands. The air and rail communications serving all over the city. My plans are I want to be happy by doing my favorite job. I want to have a good job and career in a good university. About me, I am a helpful and compatible person and I am sure that you will understand when you see me. I would like to recognize new cultures, communication with the different people, improve my language, introduce my country, expand my horizon from my exchange experience. Best wishes and kind regards. Goodbye

(continue on other side)





# You could bring a student like this into your home!

## Meet Alois from Switzerland



Service Ref: 19-00155  
Gender: Male  
Age (at arrival): 15 years  
Program length: Year  
Graduate: No  
Religion: non-religious

GPA: Good  
Quartile: Not Available  
ELTIS: 242

Meet Alois, a fifteen-year-old boy from Switzerland who describes himself as attentive, friendly, intelligent, and helpful! Alois enjoys mountain biking, skiing, and hanging out on the beach with his family. He believes the best moment of his day is when he's eating dinner with his family at the table. His favorite sport is tennis and he plays every single week! Alois also does CrossFit and attends hockey matches weekly in the winter. He can't wait to discover American culture and share beautiful memories with his host family. Alois is eager to share his culture with his host family!

## Good to Know

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Cats & dogs ok

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Hello !

There is a short description of myself :

My name is Aloïs and I'm 14, nearly 15 years old. I'm born in August !

My personality (view of my family and friends): I'm quite impatient but very attentive and friendly. Applied at school but also when I do sport. They also say that I'm intelligent and helpful. I have a very good relation with my parents, but sometimes we don't have the same opinion although the majority of the time we're together, we laugh and make jokes. I have a lot in common with them : mountain biking, skiing, staying on the beach...

The best moment in the day is when we're all on the table and eat the evening meal.

When a bad situation comes I always ask my mother or my father. And when I have a problem at school I request my friends for some advices.

I love playing tennis, it's my favourite sport. It's important for me to play every week, if it isn't with my teacher, it will be with my brother or my father...

In general I like sports and I also do CrossFit. It helps me to destress, because the program at school is very intense. I'm very connected to sport. Every week in winter, there is a hockey match and I usually go there with my family or friends.

The school begins very early and it's sometimes difficult to wake up, also because when I'm leaving it's still night.

At this moment I didn't had a really bad and complicated situation.

My personal objectives are to get fluent in english but also to discover another culture and to share some beautiful experiences. I also would like to learn at my host family how we live in Switzerland and our culture.

I have learned english at school during 7 years and I have a B1(B2 in preparation) level.

At school I'm quite good, I like maths and physics but I'm not bad at languages. In general I don't hate school and I have the chance to be good at so it doesn't inconvenience me.