

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING A **SUMMER PROGRAM**

FRIENDLY TOWNS

1 NEW EXPERIENCES

Staying with a host family is a unique and fun opportunity to travel to a new place and make new friends. Favorite activities include learning to swim, going fishing, visiting local amusement parks, catching fireflies, riding bikes, camping out in the backyard, stargazing, and making s'mores.



2 STAYING IN TOUCH

Parents receive updates and photos during the trip. Children's access to technology and screen time rules will vary with each host family.



3 BEYOND SUMMER

Many children return to the same host family each summer, and may visit the same family until age 18. Trips may be longer for returning children.



CAMP

1 NEW EXPERIENCES

Favorite activities include swimming lessons, hiking, making s'mores, arts and crafts, visiting the camp farm and planetarium, guitar lessons, and environmental science and STEM programming.



2 STAYING IN TOUCH

Children may not bring phones. We encourage letter writing.



3 BEYOND SUMMER

Many children return to camp for weekend camping retreats and can apply to participate in leadership programs.



the *Fresh Air* fund

WELCOMES YOU TO

FRIENDLY TOWNS

HOW WE CHOOSE **HOST FAMILIES**

1 **PHONE SCREENING & APPLICATION**

All families complete an application and phone conversation with a trained local volunteer.



2 **HOME VISIT & HOUSE INSPECTION**

Next, we visit each home to make sure that it is a safe and kid-friendly environment.



3 **INTERVIEW THE HOUSEHOLD**

Everyone living in the home is interviewed in-person.



4 **CONTACT 3 REFERENCES**

Families provide 3 references. 1 must be from a professional who has worked with children.



5 **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Finally, we run a background check on all household members. (18 years or older)

