American Thanksgiving is a holiday where family and friends gather to celebrate and reflect on things they are thankful for.

We only recommend signing up for this program if you are 100% certain you can attend. Families work hard preparing for this holiday. Cancelling last minute or not showing up is disrespectful.

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions below to learn more.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#1. When will I know if I have been paired with a Thanksgiving Host?
If paired with a host family, you will be provided with their contact information the week before Thanksgiving.

#2. Who can I bring to the Thanksgiving event?
The OISS asks students when they sign up to indicate if their spouse, partner and/or children will be joining them. We are unable to pair students with their friends or roommates due to the large numbers who sign up.

#3. Contact your host as soon as you receive confirmation of your pairing.
We advise that once you have been paired, that you reach out to your host confirming the date, location, and time of their Thanksgiving dinner.
The OISS will notify you if the host is able to provide transportation (this is not guaranteed).

#4. Where will my host live/Where will their Thanksgiving event be located?
Not all hosts live in Evanston. Some hosts live in Chicago and neighboring suburbs including but not limited to: Glenview, Skokie, Wheaton, Northbrook, Oak Park, etc.
Please be prepared to take public transportation if your host is unable to provide transportation. We cannot guarantee placement in a preferred location.

#5. What time will my Thanksgiving event begin?
All host families will celebrate Thanksgiving at different times of the day. The OISS encourages guests to ask their host what time they are expected to arrive and around what time their host’s Thanksgiving event typically concludes.

#6. What about dietary restrictions?
When contacting your host, please share any food allergies or dietary restrictions you may have. It is best to notify your host of this early so they can plan accordingly.

#7. What type of clothing is appropriate to wear to this event?
We suggest business casual attire. Basically, no shorts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, sandals, pajamas.

#8. Do I need to bring anything to the dinner? Food? Gifts? etc?
It is not necessary to bring a gift or food. If you would like to share an item of food with the host family, please let them know in advance.
A nice gesture is to send a “Thank you” email or posted letter after attending the dinner.

#9. MOST IMPORTANT! HAVE FUN! TAKE PICTURES! Enjoy yourselves!! AND THANK YOU!

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Cisneros at stephanie.cisneros@northwestern.edu or (847)-467-4025