

## Arranging for Room and Board

It is the responsibility of Alumni Clubs to arrange room and board for SSLP students. There are a variety of possible living arrangements, but it is important to ensure that all meals are provided for students either at the place where they are staying or at their site, and that they are not isolated where they live.

### Options for housing SSLP students:

- **AT THE SITE:** Examples area room at Catholic Worker Houses, an apartment in a homeless shelter, a room in a home for the elderly.
- **HOST FAMILIES:** We ask that there be no more than four families for the eight weeks. Examples are Philadelphia where students spend a month each with two families and Greater Sarasota where students spend two weeks with each of four families.
- **NEAR THE SITE WITH PRIESTS, SISTERS OR BROTHERS:** Examples are Greater Naples where the two students live near the site with Christian Brothers, and Kansas City where the female students at two sites live with a community of sisters.

**NOTE:** In general, students should not be asked to house-sit since many students are uncomfortable doing so and since it does not achieve the desired interaction between students and members of the Alumni Clubs. Exceptions can be considered if two or more students would live together and if interaction with Alumni Club members is planned.

### Challenges

Some SSLP students feel isolated when living on-site by themselves. Club members should make special effort to interact with students living on-site each week. Meals provide a good opportunity for maintaining contact. One benefit of living on-site is that students frequently will not need transportation to work.

SSLP student greatly value opportunities to interact with other SSLP students, volunteers, and alumni their own age during the summer. Try to connect them to other young adults when possible. A list of Notre Dame students in your area can be obtained from the Alumni Association.

SSLP students find it difficult to move multiple times throughout the summer. If possible, please arrange housing with no more than four families for the eight weeks. Our experience has been that students tend to prefer staying with no more than two host families, but we realize that this is not always possible.

Three meals need to be provided each day. Be sure students know if they can take food from

the kitchen when needed. Ask students what types of food they like and include in the shopping, if possible.

Make students feel at home right away by having a drawer cleared out for their clothes, some hangers available, etc. Most students would like to have access to a computer if they do not bring their own. Please state ground rules on computer use if applicable.

We tell students that they are not guests but contributors to the family or community with which they live.

The ideal is that one or two families would host a student(s) for the eight weeks and share dinner together often, invite students into the activities of their family life, and participate in any Alumni Club events in the summer. Students are told during their orientation that they are expected to help with household tasks and enter into family activities as their site commitments and course commitments allow. Ground rules should be clear regarding food, chores, curfews, visitors, and invitations to family activities.

Please contact [Andrea Smith Shappell](#) with any questions.