



GOODWILL IN ACTION
Since 1967

Victorian Branch of

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange

PATRON: Professor David de Kretser, AO, Governor of Victoria

Hosting a German Exchange Student in 2011

Applications Due 4 March 2011

The Exchange

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE) is a student exchange organisation founded in 1967, which has now sent more than 1500 students on exchange. In 2011, the Society (SAGSE) and the German Australian Students' Society (GASS) will once again be welcoming a group of German students to Victoria for approximately ten weeks. During this time, the students will live with Victorian families and will attend school with their host brother/sister. It is with great pleasure that we invite you to host a German exchange student for this period of time!

Hosting

The students arrive in mid June and stay for approximately 10 weeks, leaving at the end of August. The German students will be between 16-18 years of age, so it is preferable that the host sibling be in Years 10-12 at school. Whilst it is preferable that the host sibling has a basic knowledge of German, this is by no means the most important quality! It is far more important that the German student be invited to share in the daily activities of an Australian home.

Benefits of Hosting

There are so many reasons to host! Valuable and lasting friendships are formed as the student enhances their knowledge of the English language and Australian culture, while contributing to the host family's understanding of current issues and everyday life in Germany and Europe. The time spent together is extremely valuable – family and student alike are able to swap cultures and ideas in a way that they may otherwise never experience. German students are matched to potential students with similar interests and personalities, and for that reason it is a frequent occurrence that life-long friendships between Host and Exchange Student are made!

Win a Scholarship

Host students are given an automatic preliminary interview for the chance to win a scholarship and travel to Germany between November and February after their Year 11 or Year 12 studies. Younger hosts are able to transfer their automatic interview to the following year, and so will not miss out on the opportunity to apply for this fantastic scholarship! Hosting is a great way to become involved in the scholarship program.

Support for Host Families

Representatives of both SAGSE and GASS will be in contact with host families both before and during the German student's stay. The SAGSE Host Families Liaison Officer, Ms. Tania McGuire, will be in touch with host families periodically to make sure everything is running smoothly and provide further support or help, should it be required.

A Host's Perspective

"I want you to imagine two totally different faces. The first is the excitement that fills the eyes of an exchange student when they see a kangaroo for a fleeting moment as it bounds across the landscape. The second is the upturned nose and tightly scrunched mouth when Vegemite finds a new set of tastebuds. These and many other expressions of surprise, joy, and gratitude are all on the agenda if you decide to take up the opportunity to host a student on SAGSE exchange. The ten or so weeks preceding that moment were an amazing time for not only myself, as the official host sibling, but for my whole family.

Upon arrival Gabriela immediately became a member of the household. She attended school with me and was soon friends with half the year level. There was no holding back when it came to involvement. When she learned that I was in the school production, she instantly signed up to play in the orchestra - and performed brilliantly!

Perhaps the greatest thing about hosting an exchange student is what you all get out of the experience. For Gabriela it was a chance to spend some time in a foreign country, understand our way of life and make lots of new friends. For us it was enriching to learn about Germany and bring a vibrant, warm person into our home."

Megan Jackson, Former Host and subsequent Scholarship recipient

How to Apply

Application forms are available from your German teacher or by contacting the GASS Host Family Representative via the email address below. Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the GASS Host Family Representative:

Andrew Madden
11 Palmerston Place
Carlton 3053
Mob: 0417 708 224
hostfamilies@gassvic.org.au

As those applications that are received earliest will be more likely to be selected, it is urged that interested families apply as quickly as possible. Students and host families have found the program a very rewarding experience and we encourage you to become involved!!

We eagerly await your application!

Applications Due 4 March 2011