

RefAmerica

Information About Becoming a Host Family

RefAmerica's Mission Statement

RefAmerica seeks to foster a warm American welcome for refugees who have been resettled in the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The goal of RefAmerica is to promote full inclusion of recently arrived refugees in America and to provide small groups of participant refugees with the tools both to tell their stories and to help forge for themselves, their families and their fellow refugees – like generations of Americans before them – a new American story.

RefAmerica Summer 2020

RefAmerica's 2020 summer program will bring six to ten recently resettled refugee high school students from around the United States to the Washington, DC area to join with a comparable number of local American high school students for a program of leadership and public-speaking training, cross-cultural exchange, team-building, and learning about the United States and its American immigrant stories. Participants have a chance to tell their own stories to small supportive American audiences, and they plan together how they can make a difference in helping welcome refugees in their American home communities. Refugee participants stay with American host families in Montgomery County or nearby areas convenient to Washington DC. RefAmerica, now in its fourth year, is an offshoot and a sister program of its fiscal sponsor, New Story Leadership, which is in its eleventh year of delivering a comparable program based in leadership training, cross-cultural exchange, and the narrative method.

Volunteer Hosting Opportunity

Where: Montgomery County and nearby areas convenient to Washington, DC.

When: June 26 – July 26, 2020

RefAmerica is seeking summer host parents for refugee high school students who have recently been resettled in the United States. Host parents will welcome their refugee son or daughter into their home and family for a month as he/she participates with local area youth in RefAmerica's cross-cultural leadership program in the nation's capital. Host families will also be invited to participate in fun events. Please join RefAmerica in fostering a warm American welcome for refugees. For more information or a host family application, please email refamericafoundation@gmail.com.

Requirements

Potential host families will be asked to complete an application and permit a background check. They will also be contacted to arrange a home visit, and, if selected, will be asked to sign a hosting agreement. Host families will receive a RefAmerica program briefing and a hosting briefing from experienced host parents. Family settings with school- or college-aged children and homes in Montgomery County areas convenient to Washington, DC are preferred but not required.