



International  
Friendship Family  
Program

## Skidmore College

Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Office of Student Academic Services

Starbuck Center

Telephone: (518) 580-8150 Fax: (518) 580-8149

E-Mail: ddrabek@skidmore.edu

### ***Friendship Family Request Form***

(information you provide will be shared with your host)

Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What should your Friendship Family call you? \_\_\_\_\_

Skidmore E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Other, Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Country in Which you Reside: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restriction(s)? Foods you don't eat? \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Career/Academic Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests and Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want an American Friendship Family/What would you like to do with your family?

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**I have read the full description of this program and understand that the cultural exchange of this relationship will be based on my active participation. I pledge to be an engaged participant in this program and look forward to developing a friendly relationship with my host. (Please see second/reverse page.)**

Return this form to:

The Office of Student Academic Services, Skidmore College

815 N Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, or by email to ddrabek@skidmore.edu

## **International Friendship Family Program (IFFP)**

Would you like to make your experience in the U.S. more exciting and fulfilling? Become a special member of a local family and have a family away from home? Share your culture, traditions and country with a local family?

Enrich your stay at Skidmore and in Saratoga Springs and help ease your adjustment into a new culture. Along the way make lifelong friendships and enlighten others about your culture, background and experiences.

Two or three times each year, students and families will gather in formal yet casual events (i.e. potlucks or picnics) to meet other students and families. Host families and individuals will also invite their friendship family student to activities and events of diversity that reflects your collective interests. Students should also invite their hosts to campus events (i.e. meals in the dining hall, club events, performances). Friendship families provide a perspective on American culture, which the students may not experience on campus, by including the student in informal dinners, holiday celebrations, an occasional family outing, or any event that adds to the richness of the international student's experience in the United States.

The relationship with your family will last at least until you graduate, but may continue for many more beyond that, the International Friendship Family connection is a casual one that will help international Skidmore students feel welcomed into the Saratoga Springs community. The Friendship Family Program is not a residential hosting program for students, but a relational program mutually beneficial to participants in learning about cultures and communities. The friendship families are not sponsors and should never be expected to provide financial assistance.

### **Student Participant Expectations**

- students DO NOT live with local hosts (unless a short stay is invited)
- students do not have any financial obligations for their hosts, and hosts do not have any financial obligations for their student
- please maintain timely contact with your host, reply to emails or phone calls

**Want more information? Email Darren Drabek, International Student Coordinator, [ddrabek@skidmore.edu](mailto:ddrabek@skidmore.edu)**