HOST Program Frequently Asked Questions

What can I expect from the host?
Our alumni are happy to provide insights about the city in which they live and, occasionally, a specific residency. Some are also able to provide overnight accommodations in their home for you. Many hosts go above and beyond by offering transportation to and from interviews and airports, home cooked meals, guided tours of the area and invaluable professional insight on the regional medical community and your prospective medical center. Every HOST experience will be different and you will benefit every time you use the program.

How many times can I use the HOST program?
We ask that you limit the use of the program to no more than three requests. This way hosts are able to entertain requests from as many students as possible.

Is my spouse/partner able to stay with me?
Some hosts welcome spouses/partners. Please address this with your host on your initial contact.

Can I stay with a host for more than one day?
Absolutely! We have had some alumni host students for a week while the student completed several interviews in the region. Other alumni have hosted students for three days just so the student could get a better travel rate on a Saturday stay over flight.

Who are the HOST volunteers?
All hosts are OHSU alumni - they have attended the OHSU School of Medicine for their MD degree, their graduate medical education, or both.

Where are HOSTs available?
We have coordinated hosts from Vermont, Michigan, Ohio and as well as closer matches in Washington, California and Idaho. There are 17,000 OHSU School of Medicine alumni spread throughout the country - so there are potential hosts anywhere you want to travel.

How do I sign up to utilize the HOST program?
If you would like to use the HOST program, please email us with a request to receive a current list of cities in which hosts have indicated that they are available. We ask that you connect with hosts to determine the extent to which they are able to assist during the time period you expect to visit, and make arrangements with them to meet up in the host city if appropriate.
After you return from your interview, please send a thank you to the alumnus/a who helped or hosted you, and let us know how it went.

How far in advance should I contact my host?
Out of consideration for our hosts, we ask that you connect them a minimum of four weeks before you plan to travel.

What do I do if my travel or interview plans change or get cancelled?
We understand that plans change – but it is very important to contact your host as soon as possible and let them know about the change in plans and to see if the date change works for them.

Do I need to do anything after returning from using the HOST program?
Yes, we ask that you send a thank you note to the alumnus/a who hosted your stay. You are also welcome to take a thank you gift to the alumni host when you are staying with them. Many students have given a bottle of wine, flowers, etc. to thank their alumni hosts.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the HOST program?
Please contact Mark Kemball with the Alumni Relations & Educational Development Program at kemballm@ohsu.edu or 503-552-0667.