

Inspired Gateways ©

The French *Catholic* youth program to the USA,

Become an Inspired host family.

1 - What is the vision of the *Inspired Gateways* program?

History reveals where we come from and the direction in which we are going as well as specific bonds between people. Did you know there is a profound connection between the USA and France?



Pope Saint John Paul II called France the “eldest daughter of the Church” throughout the world. Because of the crown of the first Catholic King Clovis in the 5th century, France is considered the Land of Light. Since the 18th century, France is known as the country that invented the human rights through its philosophy of the Enlightenment.

The United States has long been considered as the Land of Liberty, the land where so many fled the religious oppression of their own countries. It is the land where so many explorers dreamed of a new life and freedom.

France was a large part of the construction in establishing a French-American relationship.

- Saint Louis, Missouri was founded by Pierre Laclède a French citizen.
- Louisiana holds its name in reference to the French king St Louis.
- Lafayette helped America and George Washington in the war for its independence.

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- The statue of Liberty is a gift from France to the American people in memory of the United States Declaration of Independence
- France sent many missionaries to evangelize the young America and its West during the 17th century.
- A Catholic mission was founded in Saint Louis, Missouri to evangelize the West.
- The first bishop of Phoenix, Arizona, Monsignor Bourgade was French.
- Saint Theodore Guerin lived in France in the 1800's; was canonized in 2006; foundress of the religious congregation of the Sisters of Providence in Indiana; and opened 189 Catholic schools throughout the USA.
- French Jesuit Father Pierre Marquette discovered the Mississippi River and the famous Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.

The USA did not hesitate to send thousands of young soldiers to France. The USA paid the price of blood for this friendship.

As Catholics we can benefit from history in the future by building a civilization of love so dear to the heart of Saint Pope John Paul II.

The mission of *Inspired Gateways* is to build Catholic bridges for our youth, the next generation of leaders. We want to give our youth an opportunity to discover common values and history in a way that will deepen their Catholic faith.

We offer French Catholic High School students that are steeped in their faith an opportunity to share their values with Catholic families in the USA. Albeit, building lasting friendships and life experiences.

2 - Why a Host family for *Inspired Gateways*?

Welcoming a young person from another culture is an experience that will benefit the whole family. It is an opportunity for your family to find out more about the world, to be exposed to another language and to share in the joy of mutual faith in a multicultural world.

By becoming a Host Family you can experience the pleasure of offering hospitality that will allow your French guest to be fully immersed in the American way.

By hosting a Catholic French young person through the *Inspired Gateways* program you will discover that Catholic values are deeply alive in France. French Catholic families are highly involved with their Church. The word "Catholic" means in Latin "Universal" thus, your family will experience the universality of the Catholic Church and find out how similar we are in our values and in our faith.

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The French youth are very curious about the United States. Your family will be the mirror of the United States through the lens of an inquisitive teen. The French youth will discover the simple things that we often take for granted such as a baseball game, a community picnic or even window-shopping at the mall. You will teach American values and beliefs by the way in which you live your life. You will be a valuable representative of the long legacy of friendship and of Christian brotherhood in the bond between France and America.

As a French Catholic program, *Inspired Gateways* is family owned and operated. The interest level is high and the selection process is rigorous. Our youth selected have strong Catholic values and morals, they are growing in faith and maturity and currently are being educated at a quality Catholic High School in France.

3 – Who are these French teenagers & these French families?



The French families that select *Inspired Gateways* are from both middle and mid-upper class society, usually highly educated. They have an average of four children. They generally hold a leadership position in their company for example: manager, representative, lawyer, doctor, entrepreneur, engineer, and the like. They live their Catholic Faith fully by attending Mass on Sunday, praying before meals, participating in a yearly retreat or pilgrimage committed to the life of their parish, etc.

Their youth enrolled in the *Inspired Gateways* program are male and female from ages 14 to 17 years old. They attend quality Catholic High Schools in France where servant leadership is integrated. They are highly educated, with strong maturity and have an open mind to learning the English language, many with years of knowledge. They are registered Catholic parishioners at a church in France. At the age of 14, they have been Baptized; most have received the Sacraments of First Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

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They are more than likely involved in a sport that requires practice weekly during the season like soccer, tennis, running, swimming, or the like. Most are involved in Scouts and are accustomed to camp overnight and to serve in their community.

They have learned English at school from an early age of 4 to 6 years. They have good knowledge of English, making them able to understand and speak basic conversations. They come to the *Inspired Gateways* program to improve their English in a Catholic environment.



A youth practicing sport...



...fulfilling his faith.



... Studying in a highly regarded French Catholic High School

4 – What is expected from you as a Host Family?

→ What about your own family?

The host family must have a child approximately the same age as the French guest (with a maximum of 2 year difference) and of the same gender. Your child will be the specific French guest's companion. He/she will be responsible for introducing the French guest at school including the teachers, students, as well as the proper etiquette of school life such as daily activities, after school campus opportunities, etc.

→ What is your fee for hosting?

It is worth hosting your French guest because of the value of the experience for your entire family. It is a mutual enrichment. That's why we invite your family to do it at no cost to you. This insures French families that money is not the purpose of the welcome but friendship and sharing the Catholic faith. Your French guest will pay his own expenses, his lunch at the cafeteria school, any extra-curricular activities, and any entrance fees for visits or entertainments.

→ What do host families provide?

Host families provide a bedroom which can be either a private bedroom or a shared bedroom with your same gender child, and 3 meals a day (unless there is a cafeteria at school for lunch).

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The transportation to and from the high school would be your responsibility. The host family must provide a safe environment to share customs and cultures

→ What is a host family day like?

During the week your French guest will attend school. Weekends and free time can be spent as you determine. You may choose to show your guest around the area, participate in normal family activities, or relax at home. It might be worthwhile to share the most interesting places in your area.

→ What is your authority upon your French guest?

You should consider your guest as a member of your family. That means you must respect his private life and take care of him. You should always know where your guest is, with whom he is, who is taking care of him. You should not allow your guest to go outside alone without a member of your family after 8:30 pm. You should moderate your guest's internet use. Your guest should spend time with your family and not in the internet. Your guest is not allowed to drive any kind of motorized vehicles.