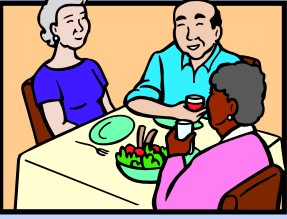




Tips for a Great Evening

Thank you for your interest in being a host for participants in the International Visitor Leadership Program, a U.S. State Department-Sponsored Program. By opening your home, you, as a citizen diplomat, foster international understanding, cooperation, and peaceful interaction with visitors.

<p>Before you meet your visitors</p> 	<p>Biographical Information will be e-mailed to you by IIE when available; however, if you want to learn more about your visitors and their country/countries, the internet is a wonderful place to start. We recommend the CIA World Factbook at http://www.cia.gov and the country summaries on the Department of State's website http://www.state.gov/countries/</p> <p>Inviting friends to join you for dinner is a great way to keep conversation flowing throughout the evening, and gives the visitors an opportunity to meet more local Denverites. You may want to include friends who work in the same field as, or have other interests in common with, your visitors as another way to make great connections and conversation.</p>
<p>Preparing the Meal</p> 	<p>Plan on serving a full meal to the visitors. You can cook a "typical" American meal or make whatever you specialize in – anything that you serve will likely show the visitors more about American culture.</p> <p>We will make every effort to provide you with information on dietary restrictions prior to the evening. However, we recommend refraining from serving pork and to serve at least one vegetable dish (no meat).</p> <p>Unless it is noted that the visitors do not drink alcohol, it is all right to offer beer, wine, or even mixed drinks, if this is the custom in your home. If you have questions about specific cultures or practices, please don't hesitate to ask your visitors. Your guests will be grateful for your sensitivity to their cultures.</p>
<p>Welcoming your visitors</p> 	<p>If you would like to take the visitors on a tour of your home, this is usually a great way to get the evening started, showing the visitors more of who you are and how many Americans live.</p> <p>It is a good idea to reconfirm any dietary restrictions and to let the visitors know that if they have any concerns at any time during the evening they should let you know.</p> <p>If you have pets, please ask the visitors if they are comfortable with the animal being in the same room with them.</p>

Conversation Starters



During their professional meetings, visitors do not often get a chance to talk about themselves on a personal level or their country. A good question to ask would be “what would you like me to know about life in your country?”

Equally as important is for the visitors to learn more about you, your family, and American culture. Feel free to ask the visitors what they want to know about you and America – maybe there was something cultural during their trip they did not fully understand.

Bring up an American ritual, venue of entertainment, or current event (such as a wedding, the theatre, or political event) that you have recently participated in, and ask your visitors what these are like in their country.

If there has been a recent news item about their country or if there are particular issues on the world stage that involve their country, ask them about their perspective on it.

Keeping a guest book of past visitors is wonderful for sharing with your visitors and other friends who are interested in hosting. The visitors love to see the past international delegations you hosted. At the end of the evening you can have your visitors sign your guest book, and possibly leave their e-mails and addresses so that you can stay in touch.

Taking a picture with the visitors at the conclusion of the evening is a great addition to a guest book, and if you e-mail it to your guests it’s a great first step for keeping in touch. Many of them will have cameras and are likely to share their pictures with you as well.

Ask the visitors what the favorite part of their trip has been so far both in terms of cultural experiences and their professional meetings.