



UNITED STATES SERVAS

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Dear Servas Traveler,

We are happy to learn you are interested in becoming a Servas **host**. You will join a diverse group of individuals who want to promote peace and inter-cultural understanding through person-to-person encounters.

We ask each host household for an annual, tax-deductible, voluntary contribution, which goes toward the cost of our publications and mailings. The average host contribution is \$45. Larger contributions are very welcome but please understand that you may become a host at whatever contribution level you are comfortable with.

Please read the informational packet and Host Pledge carefully. If you are willing to comply with the pledge, you are invited to apply as follows:

1. Complete the **Host Application Form** following the enclosed instructions. Make one copy.
2. Contact one of our volunteer interviewers to schedule a meeting, usually lasting up to two hours. Please refer to the interviewers list on our website at www.usservas.org or call us at 707.825.1714 if you would rather have us look up the interviewer nearest you.
3. Take to the interview your Host Application and copy, a check or money order for your host contribution.

If the interviewer feels that you understand and agree with Servas principles and that both you and Servas travelers will benefit from your participation, your membership will be approved and signed. The interviewer will send your original application, signed by both you and your interviewer, along with your contribution to the national office for processing. Upon receipt of your approved application, we will send you the Host Handbook, which explains in detail the host/traveler relationship.

Your interviewer will use the copy of your application to refer travelers to you until you are listed. The US Servas Host List is printed in the Spring of each year, and a Summer Supplement is prepared in June. You must renew your membership each Autumn to remain on the list.

If you are interested in also becoming a Servas traveler, you can ask your interviewer or the office about several special domestic travel programs open only to US hosts. Our regular international travel program, however, is completely separate. Regular Traveler application forms, instructions and materials may be obtained through your interviewer, online at www.usservas.org, or the office.

We look forward to meeting you and helping to make your world full of friendships and new cultural experiences!

In peace & friendship,

The Servas Staff

HOST APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Below are guidelines for each numbered item on the Host Application form.

HOST INFORMATION

Household Members: Include yourself and ALL other individuals living in your household. Do not include pets. Attach a separate sheet, if you need more space.

Address: (If you have two places of residence, please fill out an additional form, filling out questions 2-11, 18 only)

Contact Info: Indicate the phone numbers (including home, work and cell), fax numbers and email where travelers can reach you. For fax and email, please indicate if they are work or home with a “w” or “h”.

Area Description: This space is intended to give travelers a sense of the country's geographic diversity. Indicate how many miles (including compass direction) you are from the nearest city that can be found on a map easily.

Languages: List all languages you speak, including American Sign Language, with some ability or fluently, except for English.

Accommodations: a) The regular length of stay is 2 nights OR check (b) if you can DAY-host only. If you are a regular overnight host, be sure to indicate how many persons you can host and whether you prefer either male or female, male or female guests only, couples or families.

Extended Visit Possible: Check the box if travelers may inquire about a possible extended visit and/or list the number of days above the normal 2 that they would be allowed to stay.

Hosting Physically Challenged Travelers: Please read the following information and, with this in mind, inspect the parts of your home that a physically challenged traveler would need to use (especially the bathroom). Then decide which type(s) of physically challenged travelers you can host and indicate accordingly. The codes in our listings related to physical challenges are:

H - Hearing Impairment - includes all degrees of impaired hearing up to full deafness. Some hearing impaired people can hear to a limited extent, often with electronic hearing aids. Hearing impaired travelers do not require special housing or transportation arrangements, however expect to make the extra effort to communicate.

V - Visual Impairment - includes all degrees of impaired vision up to full blindness. Vision impaired travelers do not require special housing arrangements. Expect to guide your visitor around your home at first and describe things (including the layout of the food at mealtimes) until s/he learns where everything is.

M - Mobility Impairment - includes travelers who use a cane or crutches and can do nearly everything, but excludes, in this instance, wheelchair travelers. If your home has no more than one step and is at ground level or is accessible by elevator or ramp, and has no other movement restrictions you can easily host a mobility-impaired visitor.

W - Wheelchair Accessible - includes all wheelchair users - paraplegics, quadriplegics, and amputees. Wheelchair travelers need unblocked access to your home. Some wheelchair travelers can negotiate a single step such as a curb, but most need a completely flat or ramp access. Narrow doors (less than 30” wide), especially the bathroom door, are a serious obstacle. Please check your doors before checking this box!

D - Guide Dogs Accommodated - Guide dogs are employed by some hearing, vision, and mobility-impaired people to help them get around independently. Guide dogs are not pets; they are working professionals, so if your building does not allow pet dogs they still should allow guide dogs (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Special Information: Please indicate any special information that your traveler should know about by checking the boxes or writing in the space provided (e.g. if you have any dietary restrictions). The following codes will appear in the list for the items you check: Sleeping Bag Advisable (SBA), Sleeping Bag Necessary (SBN), No Smoking Inside (NSI), No Smoking at All (NSA), Have Pets (PETS), and Want More Travelers (WMT).

Travelers can contact me: Indicate how much advance notice you need and by what method (phone, email, etc.). **You will receive more travelers if you list email as a contact option and list less than 4 days notice** (0 days notice will appear in the host list with the abbreviation: NPNR for no prior notice required).

Vacation: List months that you will be on vacation, special vacations or regular yearly vacations (e.g. summer).

Interests: List what you like to do or discuss with travelers (e.g. attend community meetings, the peace movement, organic farming, chess, or animals). Be specific so that travelers will have a real sense of you, but lump similar activities together (such as “outdoor activities”). Remember that space is limited, so if you don’t edit we may have to.

Countries Traveled to: Condense 3 or more countries you have traveled through into regions (e.g. W Europe, S Pacific, etc.)

Countries Lived in: Same as above.

Organizations to which you belong: Limit to the four (4) most important to you and don’t abbreviate. Write “professional” rather than list all job-related organizations.

Topics you would like to discuss with travelers: Briefly list topics you are already familiar with and those you would like to learn about.

A brief Quote: This is your chance to describe what about yourself and/or your area you would most like to share with your travelers and to attract those travelers you would most like to host. You can be creative, but please be brief and avoid repeating what you have said elsewhere.

How can travelers find their way to your home? (Directions): Please explain how travelers can get to you or your area by public transportation and/or if you are willing to pick them up at a nearby train station, airport, etc. If you are not reached by public transportation and cannot pick up, please do not list long driving directions, as we cannot fit them (could say instead “call for directions”). *Please note that you will receive more travelers if you are willing to help with pick up.*

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The annual voluntary contribution helps to pay for administrative expenses, production of the host list, national and international Servas newsletters and other mailings and projects. Servas is funded entirely by members’ contributions and fees! The average contribution in 2007 was \$45.00. If you cannot contribute this amount, less is also welcome. Larger contributions are especially appreciated. Whether you pay a host registration fee has absolutely no impact on your hosting status.

Our goal is for Servas to reflect the broad spectrum of United States residents. Please recommend us to your friends and colleagues, especially to people from diverse ethnic and economic groups and to those who are physically challenged.

Servas is international, interracial, and interfaith (see the host pledge at the bottom of the form).

[Servas Host Lists are to be used only by approved Servas Members for their intended purpose. Using the lists for any other purpose (e.g. commercial gain) may result in the immediate termination of your Servas membership and possible litigation.]



UNITED STATES
SERVAS

Received _____

Renewing Host

New Host

1125 16th Street - Suite 201 - Arcata, California 95521-5585
Tele: 707.825.1714 Fax: 707.825.1762 Email: info@usservas.org
www.usservas.org

HOST APPLICATION FORM

Please read the instructions that accompany this form. Type or print neatly.

If you are a renewing host and all information here is accurate for your 2008 Host Book listing, please check this box.

HOST INFORMATION

1. **Household Members:** (Please list every individual and do not list pets.)

Last Name First Name Gender Year born Occupation

Last Name	First Name	Gender	Year born	Occupation

2. **Address:** _____
Street / Box No. City State Zip + 4

3. **Contact Info:** (include area code with phone #)

Home phone: _____ Fax: _____

Work phone: _____ Email: _____

Cell phone: _____

4. **Area Description:** I/We are _____ miles (compass direction) _____ of (nearest city) _____

5. **Languages Spoken WELL:** _____ With **SOME** Ability: _____

6. **Accommodations:** 2 NIGHT host DAY host only

Persons:

- _____ Male or female
- _____ Female guests only
- _____ Male guests only
- _____ Couple
- _____ (FAM)ilies with children under 12

7. **Extended Visit Possible:** Yes, traveler could inquire about staying _____ additional days

8. **Willing to Host Travelers with Disabilities:** Hearing Vision Guide Dog Mobility Wheelchair Accessibility

9. **Special Info:** Sleeping Bag advisable Sleeping Bag necessary No Smoking Inside No Smoking at all

Pet(s): Cat(s) Dog(s) Other Pet(s) (please specify): _____

Want More Travelers Other: _____

10. **Travelers can contact me:** 0 1 2 7 14 days other # ___ days in advance.

I wish to be contacted by (check as many as apply): Write Phone Email Fax

11. **Vacation** (months not available to host): _____

12. **Interests** (please be specific): _____

13. Countries **Traveled** to:

14. Countries **Lived In**:

15. **Organizations** to which you belong:

16. **Topics** you would like to discuss with travelers:

17. Please write a brief **quote** (40 words or less) describing what about you and/or your area you would most like to share with travelers: _____

18. How can travelers find their way to your home? (list if you can pick up and/or public transportation):

All Hosts, 18 and over, must sign the Host Pledge below

I/We understand and subscribe to the goals of Servas, which are to promote peace, the unity of humankind, and mutual understanding of the cultures, outlooks, and problems of the people of the world. I/We will accept Servas travelers of any race, creed, sexual orientation, or nationality, and seek to have a meaningful visit with them. Host List information is to be used only by approved Servas members for its intended purpose. Using the Lists for any other purpose (e.g. as a mailing list) is ground for the immediate termination of Servas membership and possible litigation.

Host Signature: _____ Date: _____

Host Signature: _____ Date: _____

Host Signature: _____ Date: _____

Host Signature: _____ Date: _____

NEW HOST APPLICATIONS ARE NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT AN INTERVIEWER'S SIGNATURE

INTERVIEWER: Approved by: _____ Date _____			
Interviewer's Address:			
_____	_____	_____	_____
Street / Box No.	City	State	Zip + 4

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Enclosed is my/our voluntary registration donation of \$40, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$_____
 Checks payable to United States Servas. All donations are tax-deductible.

Please send me/us _____ Servas brochures and/or send one to each person on the enclosed list.

Yes, please send a copy of the current printed United States Host Book.

**Return to: United States Servas, Inc., 1125 16th Street, Suite 201, Arcata, CA 95521-5585, USA
Tel:(707) 825-1714; Fax: 825-1714; info@usservas.org; www.usServas.org**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Host Welcome Sent _____ Data Entered _____ Comments _____

A Brief History of Servas

Over the past fifty years, dedicated peace-minded people have created the vital worldwide hospitality network known as Servas. Servas was initiated in 1948 by a conscientious objector to war who believed it was possible to build stronger foundations for world peace by helping concerned people to meet and learn from each other and to recognize that we all belong to one world family. For years, many had been cut off by political and military barriers. A devastating war had also created many psychological and economic barriers.

Volunteers were first found in countries of northwestern Europe who gathered lists of people who could offer free hospitality to approved foreign travelers. It was hoped that, by traveling in the open-door style, people would build links between groups and individuals seeking a peaceful and just society.

A group of leaders from several pacifist organizations in England gave sound roots to the hospitality system, which was known by several names: Peacebuilders, Work-Study-Travel, and Open Doors. Meanwhile a dedicated Gandhian and Quaker woman in California, "Grandma" Esther Harlan, created the even more extensive hospitality system in North America—using only correspondence to compile a roster of people identified as potential Peace Builders. Within a few years, the movement had taken root in a number of other countries.

Lists were circulated of those willing to open their doors to travelers within the system. Early US hosts included leaders in race relations, Quaker, Jewish, Protestant and Catholic leaders, leaders of cooperatives, peace leaders and village rehabilitation workers. Though a peace-oriented organization, it has never excluded non-pacifists; it has, in fact, welcomed travelers in uniform. From these humble beginnings Servas has reached out to people all over the world, driven entirely by the efforts of concerned volunteers.

The name **Servas**—meaning "serve" in Esperanto—was later adopted to denote the spirit of international mutual service which characterizes this movement. Today, with hosts in more than 130 countries Servas has become a global program of over 14,000 member hosts and thousands of travelers... and continues to grow. Volunteer national committees have compiled lists of hosts in countries of every form of government and provided bridges of understanding between people of every profession and persuasion.

Though started by pacifists, we have never rejected anyone because of other ideologies: open mindedness and a commitment to cooperation are the only criteria. Since 1973 Servas International has been recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

As it has grown Servas has become more inclusive, rather than exclusive, but it has never relinquished its goal of striving for world peace by providing opportunities for people of all cultures, races and backgrounds to meet and share their mutual concerns. *Join us!*