Hosting with Servas has many benefits. It can introduce you to new people and cultures, help build peace and understanding around the world and establish new and long-term friendships with people from many cultures.

**Note:** Although a 2-night stay is the preferred hosting period, Servas allows hosts the option to offer just 1 night of accommodation as their preference.

**Servas hosts have the responsibility to:**

- Keep your host information up to date, especially your email address, phone number and photo.
- Reply promptly to every request — even if you are unable to host. Many travelers are waiting for your response before they contact others.
- Provide a comfortable (but not necessarily luxurious) place to sleep for the agreed upon time (one or two nights, as specified in your profile).
- Discuss with your guest ahead of time what kind of accommodation, meals, length of stay etc. you can provide, especially if these will be limited in some way. Discussing any special needs or situations ahead of time could make a big difference to the quality of the visit.
- Spend as much time with your guests as is practical for you. Remember, an important goal of Servas is to learn about the country, culture, and life of your guests, while sharing information about your own way of life. Discussion of topics that promote peace and understanding worldwide are important elements of the Servas visit. Be considerate of guests who need time for rest or relaxation.
- Notify the traveler immediately if you are unable to host them after you have agreed to do so. Perhaps you or your regional coordinator might know of another host in the area and suggest that the traveler might want to contact them.
- Welcome all travelers regardless of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

**Servas hosts have the right to:**

- Decline to host at any time if it is not convenient, or if travelers provide insufficient notification. You are never required to host a guest who shows up without notice.
- Decide whether you will accept travelers as a day host, for one night or two, or invite hosts to stay longer.
- Determine the level of hospitality you provide. Many hosts provide meals, but you can determine whether you will provide meals, allow guests to use your kitchen, or provide no food service. You may provide transportation for sightseeing or to the airport, but are not required to.
- Request that travelers not remain in the house when you are away. Restrict your hosting to “male only” or “female only”.

**All hosts have the responsibility to help Servas thrive and grow as an organization that maintains true to its goals and values, and should:**

- Accept only travelers who provide you with a current and valid Letter of Introduction (LOI). If they don’t send it with the initial contact, please request it. LOIs must have a valid eStamp with an expiration dated after the time of their visit.
- Discuss situations with travelers if they behave in ways that you think do not reflect appropriate Servas values. If the issue is not resolved, or they arrive without a current LOI, contact US Servas at info@usservas.org.
Over the past seventy plus years, our members around the world have enjoyed the art of hosting visitors in the Servas way. Communication is the key to a successful Servas experience. The system works remarkably well when travelers remember to do the following:

- **Be sensitive and respectful** of your hosts’ values and customs. Learn about the area where you will be visiting, use travel guidebooks and maps so you can be prepared. Consider contacting hosts outside major cities. Often, they are less inundated with requests than hosts near transportation hubs or major tourist destinations.

- **Read the host listings carefully** to understand what the host is able to provide. Each request should be individualized ... no mass emails. Contact hosts well in advance and include a copy of your Letter of Introduction and the purpose of your travel.

- **Only call at reasonable hours**, usually between 9 am and 9 pm host’s local time; do not expect hosts to return your long-distance call at their expense.

- **Confirm arrangements** before arriving and notify your hosts if your schedule or arrival time has changed and ask if you should eat before you arrive.

- **Arrive on time.** It is your responsibility for getting to the host’s home... and getting there on time.

- **Present your Letter of Introduction** to your hosts at the door when you arrive... before being asked. Any travel companions (18 and older) must have their own LOI.

- **Stays are for one or two nights** at the discretion of the host; the visit may be extended, but only by the host’s express invitation.

- **Meals are not obligatory.** While some hosts will invite you to share meals with them, they are not obligated to do so. Communication regarding meals or use of the kitchen is important.

- **Be polite and gracious,** follow the rules of the house, and accept whatever sleeping and eating arrangements that are offered. Offer to help with chores and cleanup.

- **Use of the telephone or computer** is at your host’s invitation. Offer to pay for any costs. In some countries, data charges are quite high. Public libraries in the US offer the use of computers, often free.

- **Consider carrying your own sheets or sleep sack,** to save hosts the trouble of doing extra laundry.

- **Spend time with your hosts**—this is the central purpose of the visit! Make time to get involved and share your ideas. Offer to help — Servas means “we serve”. One host may not accept help, but the next may be grateful.

- **Thank your hosts.** Provide some token of thanks whether it is something from home, fresh flowers or cooking a meal. Leave or send a note of thanks, and maybe friend them on Facebook and/or add them to your holiday list. This, of course, is in addition to being a model guest.

- **Your conduct should be above reproach.** In the unlikely event that a Servas member acts inappropriately, please report the incident quickly to the US Servas office or, if not in the US, that country’s National Secretary for action with a cc to the US Servas office at info@usservas.org.

- **No Guarantees.** Servas membership does not guarantee anyone the “right” to free hospitality. Servas hosts, on the otherhand, do have the right to refuse a homestay request... even without an explanation. Be polite and understanding when a host, who finds it inconvenient to receive you, might say “No.”