

# Welcome to World Link

## What Makes World Link Different

**Only Government Programs:** World Link is the only exchange organization in the USA that solely conducts exchange programs for the U.S. Government using public funding. World Link does not have any privately sponsored exchange programs and all programs are scholarship based.

**Merit Based Selection:** World Link students do not pay to participate in the exchange program but are selected by a selection team involving a merit-based process with three layers of selection in different locations to eliminate the influence of teachers, parents or interested parties. Participants are screened using the ELTiS Test for English language proficiency and interviewed by American and native interviewers that are looking for characteristics of a good exchange student.

**Enhancement Activities:** World Link has a motto "exchange with a purpose" and our entire staff and network of local volunteers go beyond the placement of students in schools by organizing enhancement activities for students to participate in sharing their culture through presentations and activities, community service involvement and leadership skill development through school clubs and World Link activities. World Link students will leave a memory and impact on your school and you will remember where they originate from and something about their culture and lifestyle.

**Record of Compliance with J-1 Visa Regulations:** World Link takes adherence to J-1 visa regulations and CSJET standards very seriously and has been a fully listed member of CSJET for over 15 years. As a government contractor, World Link has an audit conducted each year of the organization's compliance with J-1 visa regulations for high school exchange students and received 100% compliance ratings during the most recent three years. Students file wellness and safety reports with the national office each month and local coordinators maintain regular monthly contacts with students and host families. The national staff visit 20% of students each year in their homes providing for program feedback that identifies areas for improvement.

**Cluster Groups:** World Link is a medium sized exchange organization with students placed in cluster groups in areas where we have trained coordinators. World Link maintains 6-7 cluster groups and because our programs are clustered in a limited number of regions, World Link is very interested in maintaining good relations and good standing with host families and schools in the area. You will find that World Link is very responsive to issues that arise and will be there for the student, host family and school, whenever needed.

**Trained Coordinators:** World Link coordinators, many of them have full-time commitments to the program, are trained and updated each year at an annual meeting and have regular online conferences with the national office throughout the year. Every coordinator is certified through in regulation with the Department of State each year. After the initial screening, all World Link host families will be visited a second time by a representative other than the original placement person in the first 60 days that a student is in the country. This visit will follow-up on questions and issues that have arisen since the student arrived and ensure the student is settling in to their host placement and school.

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