



## **HOST HOME MINISTRY**

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## WHAT IS THE JOURNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH RESIDENCY PROGRAM?

Journey Christian Church Residency is a two-year program that combines focused leadership training with practical ministry experience. Our purpose is to raise up and equip next-generation leaders for work in church ministry. We offer a well-rounded experience that will develop a resident with a variety of leadership, ministry, practical, and personal skills needed to be successful in full-time church ministry.

For more information about the residency: [journeychristian.com/residency](http://journeychristian.com/residency).

## WHAT IS THE JOURNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM?

Journey Christian Church Internship is a 10-week program that is designed to help young leaders elevate or eliminate a call into ministry. Our internship program provides hands on ministry experience as well as opportunities to learn and lead alongside our incredibly talented staff.

For more information about the internship: [journeychristian.com/internship](http://journeychristian.com/internship).

## HOST HOME MINISTRY CONSIDERATIONS

One aspect of the resident's development is providing a healthy, positive place to live while in the program through the Host Home ministry opportunity.

The following describes what is involved in becoming a Host Home Family:

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HOST FAMILY:

- **Pray.** First, we ask that you listen to the Holy Spirit to discern if this ministry opportunity is right for you and your family.
- **Be in agreement.** If you are married, we ask that you and your spouse be united on the decision to host and that both of you are 100% onboard for the journey.
- **Agree to host a resident for two years.** Rather than shuffling residents to new homes every three-six months like some programs do, we believe long-term stability is better for the resident's development. It also allows the opportunity to build a deeper, long-term relationship with the resident, which aids in their overall development.
- **Agree to host an intern for 10-weeks.**

- **Fill out the online application and background check.** We ask that one member of the host family fill out and submit the online application form. All adults living at the host home residence will need to submit a background check. We require this of our incoming residents as well. Once you apply our team will email you the background check form to complete online.
- **Home visit.** After the application is received, a staff member of Journey Christian Church will set up a time to see the living space and connect with you again regarding the ministry.
- **Be able to provide a private bedroom and private/semi-private bathroom.** This could include a basement, mother-in-law suite, guest house, extra bedroom etc. This space should be solely for the resident/intern's use for the duration of their stay with you. Access to a bathroom with a level of privacy is also important.
- **Provide a clean and safe living environment.** We don't expect a home to be perfectly clean all the time. However, we would expect the host to keep a house that is generally clean and secured in a way where the resident/intern feels comfortable and safe. The resident/intern will be given similar expectations of cleanliness and respect.
- **Not expect payment for rent and utilities.** Offering to host free of charge helps the resident/intern not be burdened with that substantial cost of living and helps the church as well.
- **Provide an adequate internet connection.**
- **Communicate early.** A wise host will have discussions with a resident/intern early in their experience concerning house rules, desired codes of conduct, and expectations.
- **Not require or expect babysitting or pet sitting or heavier tasks/chores that are above the normal lighter housekeeping tasks.** You certainly can ask the resident/intern for help with certain things (Example: "I need help moving a couch into the other room"), as long as it doesn't become a consistent thing that takes away from their ministry responsibilities (Example: "I'm spending the day in the yard and I'm going to need you to clear your schedule to help").
  - Regarding babysitting: As a rule, we'd prefer that you consider to pay your resident if consistent babysitting is needed for an extended period of time. The exception to this would be something like, "I'm running to the store to get a few things. Are you going to be here for the next 30 minutes? If so, can you keep an eye on the kids?"

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF A JOURNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH RESIDENT/INTERN:**

- Be respectful of the host's personal space and "house rules."
- Abide by the same "code of conduct" standards as Journey Christian Church staff.
- Clean up after themselves in both their private space and common spaces (including weekly bathroom cleaning, cleaning kitchen after use, etc.).
- Proactively offer to help with light tasks around the house and yard (dump trash, sweep/vacuum, rake leaves, etc.).
- Ask permission before inviting guests to the home. (Opposite gender is not allowed in your room or to spend the night, even if the host home has an extra room)
- Be responsible for their own groceries and meals.
- Provide their own vehicle and transportation.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOURNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF:**

- Communicate expectations and boundaries to both the host and the resident/intern.
- Provide mediation and conflict resolution as needed.
- Provide ongoing support through quarterly check-ins (or as needed).
- Recruit additional hosts for future years as needed for current and future residents.
- Provide another host for the resident if the need to do so arises. If this is the case, the church asks that you give 60 days' notice to give us time to find another host.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS WHEN HOSTING A RESIDENT/INTERNS

1. Communicate clearly from the beginning (see Communication Guide).
  - o Cover “house rules” within the first couple of days.
  - o Clearly define boundaries, especially regarding personal space and common spaces.
2. Don’t let any potential conflict or tension build.

Resident/interns appreciate the hospitality and want to follow the boundaries and house rules of host families but may be unsure of what those are if they haven’t been discussed. They appreciate clear, direct communication of expectations!

If you feel your resident/intern isn’t respecting your expectations, communicate that right away. If you need someone from the church to help mediate a situation, or you need advice, please contact us.

3. Check expectations.

Before applying to host a resident, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have an expectation that the resident/intern be an active member of my family, or am I comfortable with them living in my home with the potential they may “do their own thing” and not be as involved or “close” relationally with my family?
- Do I expect the resident/intern to be home at a certain time each night or do I understand they need young adult community and sometimes late-night ministry?
- Am I willing to frequently and clearly communicate with the resident/intern our expectations/boundaries, when needed.

## COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Journey Christian Church staff highly recommends you read through and discuss this guide as a host family. Once you have sorted through your expectations and boundaries, we recommend starting this conversation with the resident/intern upon their arrival. We realize a lot of expectations and boundaries work out naturally, but you will find some recommended topics below to discuss with your resident/intern. Every host and every resident/intern are different; you should not assume the resident/intern will have the same expectations as you!

We acknowledge that even when a person knows they are following God's will and are united with their spouse on a decision, there may still be nervousness and unknowns to navigate! Continue to lean into prayer to discern what the Holy Spirit intends during this time of hosting a resident/intern and to help navigate the process. Our prayer is not that this process would be perfect, but that this journey will be God-honoring, life-giving, and joyful for all involved!

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATION

- Best done in a direct, kind, and frequent manner.
- As the situation permits, communicate in person.
- Acknowledge your nervousness, as it will affirm the same with them.
- Communicate early.
- Convey an openness to any topic that the resident/intern may feel needs to be addressed.
- Open the discussion around house rules/boundaries/expectations, rather than waiting for the resident/intern to bring up the conversation.

### RECOMMENDED TOPICS TO COVER

- Share with them about yourself & your family (and vice versa).
- Provide information regarding the living space.
- Find out what the resident/intern's living situation was before your home.
- Communicate your preferred method of communication (text, phone, email).
- What is your expectation of "response time"?
- House Rules (create your own priority list from these ideas):
  - Allergies
  - Food sharing/not sharing
  - Food storage space (Residents/interns are responsible for their own groceries and meals; they may need a designated area in the pantry or drawer in the fridge/freezer)
  - The expectation of sharing kitchen/cooking spaces
  - Cleanliness expectation of shared living spaces (dishes, laundry, etc.)
  - Cleanliness expectation of bedroom, personal living spaces
  - Shared living space chores, if applicable (taking out the trash, running a load of dishes, etc.)

## RECOMMENDED TOPICS TO COVER cont.

- Laundry usage
- Guests
- Overnight guests (the opposite gender is not allowed)
- Expectations/boundaries regarding significant others
- Firearms (Do you own any? Are they safely stored?)
- Entry and exit (keys, garage door openers, alarm codes, garage code, etc.)
- Parking
- Internet access codes
- Other (shoes off at the door; lights off when leaving a room, etc.)

### Boundaries

- Opposite gender communication (group texts and emails)
- Physical boundaries (side hugs vs frontal hugs; home alone with an opposite spouse)
- Space boundaries (knocking before entering personal spaces)

### Time

- Acknowledge the resident/intern's ministry, school commitments, and relationship. Their need for alone time/decompressing is key.
- Express your own personal commitments and personal time.
- Open dialogue about how to avoid monopolizing each other's time or what to do if one party feels this is happening.

### Nature of the host home family/resident relationship

- What are both parties' expectations for the nature of the relationship between host and resident?

## NEXT STEP

If you are interested in becoming a host home, please complete this [Host Home Application](#).