



AU PAIR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2012

Invitation Letter

Dear Host Family,

Annually thousands of young people from all over the world embark on a special journey by becoming au pairs. Leaving behind the familiarity of their homeland for as long as one year, au pairs travel to distant countries, where they are welcomed into another culture as a part of their host family. For many au pairs this is their first experience of a new country and culture.

For the most part, au pairing is a positive and rewarding experience. In recent years much of the publicity concerning au pairing has concentrated on a few isolated negative events and this has strongly impacted the public perception of au pairing.

The "IAPA Au Pair of the Year" award is one way of giving au pairs the recognition and credit they deserve and enhances the public's awareness of this demanding yet undervalued cultural experience.

The eighth IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award will be presented during the IAPA Annual Conference and Work Experience Travel Market which will take place in Budapest, Hungary, March, 2012.

We _____ (Organisation Name) a Member of IAPA, urge you to consider nominating your au pair for the eighth "IAPA Au Pair of the Year" award in 2012.

Eligibility

- ✓ The nomination is an essay written by you, the host family, describing the characteristics that make your au pair exceptional. The essay should be from 500 to 850 words (about 1 page, single spaced) and should contain a separate page with the name of the au pair, the name of the sending/receiving IAPA organisation, and your contact information.
- ✓ Entries should be returned to our office no later than Sunday, 15 January 2012, midnight CET. Only emailed submissions will be accepted.
- ✓ The young person being nominated for the award is/was an au pair during 2011.

Additional information

- ✓ We are looking for compelling reasons why you believe your au pair is exceptional.
- ✓ Host family essays will be judged by a selection panel appointed by the International Au Pair Association. To ensure fairness and objectivity by the selection panel, the names of the au pair and the sending/receiving organisation/s will not appear on contest entries.
- ✓ Host family essays will be rated and three au pair finalists selected. In order to qualify each finalist must write in their own words a short essay detailing his/her own au pair experience. The essay does not need to be in English.
- ✓ All contest entries will become property of the International Au Pair Association, including rights to edit and publish the material.
- ✓ The winning au pair will be required, all expenses paid, to attend the Association's 18th Annual Conference where he/she will be presented with a token prize and commemorative award.
- ✓ In order for your au pair to be eligible for the award, you may be required to provide verification of the essays content.
- ✓ The winning au pair will be notified by IAPA.

Kind Regards,
On behalf of the IAPA Executive Board

_____ (Organisation Name)