



## **HOST FAMILIES WANTED**

### **Atlanta Kings Billet Program**

**The Atlanta Junior Kings are seeking host families for the season!**

Hosting an athlete is an exciting and rewarding experience. When a family chooses to welcome a young athlete into their home, or more importantly, their family, the opportunity is there to establish a friendship and make a difference in the athlete's life. For many of the players, this will be their first time living away from home. When opening your home to a young athlete, you both have the opportunity to learn about each other by sharing family traditions, developing a friendship, and exchanging hometown stories. As a host family, it is exciting to watch the athlete grow and develop over the course of the hockey season. Families that open their homes to our players are an integral part of the success of our program.

Host families do receive monetary compensation of \$350 each month for each billeted player, but the real reward is the lasting friendships that are formed between players, their parents and host families. Many times, the young aspiring athlete becomes a role model for the younger children in the household creating a great mentoring relationship. Dinnertime is always a great time for everyone to connect and share their day. The young players look forward to that time as it reminds them of their own families.

The billeting program typically begins no earlier than August 1st and continues through the end of the season. In rare instances, players may request housing through May to finish the school year. The August 1<sup>st</sup> start date will allow for players attending high school or college to report with enough time for registration and the start of the fall semester. If a player arrives mid-month the stipend will be prorated accordingly. We know that the success a player attains on the ice is due to the many things that he does to prepare himself off the ice. A living environment that feels like home contributes to the successful development of the elite athlete.

**Host Family Provides:** A bedroom for a player or players, basic meals, general toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste) and laundry facilities. Host families are not responsible for supplying unlimited amounts of food or snacks, providing clothing or non-essential items (cologne, magazines, etc.). Transportation and school related expenses are the responsibility of the player and not the host family. All players must follow the rules of the house set by the host family. Host family assists Atlanta Knights organization with player compliance with team rules and regulations.

In addition to the \$350.00 stipend for each player, the host families will receive season tickets to all home games. Please feel free to contact Carrie Uzzell at 636-248-2248 or via e-mail at [info@atlantajrkings.com](mailto:info@atlantajrkings.com)



## **Benefits of Becoming a Host Family**

Role Model to the player or players

Building a relationship with a player and becoming family

Mentor to your children

\$350.00 stipend for each player billeted

Season tickets to all Atlanta Jr. Knights home games

Growing the sport of hockey in the Atlanta area

## **Benefits to the Player**

Help the players develop into mature, productive young men that can transition into college, prepared for the rigors of the academic and athletic life

Build a relationship with a family that provides a safe and caring home

Build a relationship with the youth hockey program players by modeling hard work, good sportsmanship on and off the ice, and practicing like they play



# Interested in Being a Host Family?

Each season we recruit talented players who show great potential to play at the college level, and beyond, who do not live within a reasonable driving distance of the Atlanta Junior Kings' home rink. To take advantage of this great opportunity the players need families willing to share their homes and become a "home away from home" for them.

Many families have done this for dozens of players from many states and foreign countries through the years. In addition to playing, boys have been able to complete their high school educations, take classes in local colleges, or hold part time jobs while pursuing their hockey opportunities and dreams.

What is expected of the host family? The player needs a room of his own or can share with a team member. He needs a bed, bureau, closet space and a desk or table and chair. While players are expected to provide bed and bath linens, personal care items, cell phones, media equipment and take care of their own transportation needs, each housing situation has its own unique mix of these things. The family also needs to provide the players with three meals a day: a basic breakfast, a bag lunch and an evening meal. When the players are on the road, they take care of their own food expenses.

What is expected of the players? They must obey all team and house rules and show respect and consideration toward all family members. They need to take care of their own belongings.

How long is a host family's commitment? This varies depending on the player. Some are with the family during the hockey season only. Others need to complete the school year. Some players go home for the weekend as often as the game schedule permits. All typically go home over the holiday breaks.

Families receive a monthly billeting payment for each player. Some have found it easier to house two players as they then travel together and are company for each other. There have been some instances when 3 players, or even 4, have been welcomed by one family. Host families have included traditional 2-parent families, single-parent families "empty-nesters" and player families from surrounding youth programs too. All that's really needed is a willingness to help a player pursue his dream by providing a "home away from home".

You can go to our web site for more information: <http://www.atlantajrkings.com/billetprogram>

If interested you may go directly to this link to fill out the Host Family Questionnaire:  
[http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0080/3445/Host\\_Family\\_Questionnaire.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0080/3445/Host_Family_Questionnaire.pdf)

Want to talk about being a host family? Please email [info@atlantajrkings.com](mailto:info@atlantajrkings.com) or call Carrie (636-248-2248) for more information. Your willingness to share your home and family is all it takes, and the players will thank you many times over!

***Thank you from your Atlanta Junior Kings Coaches - Kevin St. Jacques and Scott Hilton, The Owners, Domenic and Kimberly Didomenicantonio and Carrie Uzzell, Billet Coordinator***