



MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

MMU Hospitality Family Program

MMU Hospitality Family Overview

First, thank you! Your willingness to connect to a student at Mount Marty University and provide them with a support system in Yankton is commendable. We know that the students will benefit greatly from this relationship, and we hope that you and your family will as well! The following is some information to help prepare you for this experience. This is not meant to be a comprehensive document that provides you with 100% of the information you may find helpful in this journey, but it will get you started. The MMU Staff and Hospitality Family committee (Lori Stephenson, Kate Schramm, and Johanna Jablonoski) are here to support you and answer additional questions as you move through this journey with your student.

Hospitality Family Expectations:

The intention of this program is to provide hospitality and a connection to our community. We **do not** expect families to provide financial support to students. Here are some ways that hospitality families can support a student:

- Welcome the student to Yankton by reaching out and connecting with them toward the beginning of the school year. (Texts and calls are a great start, but try to meet in person as soon as you can.)
- Act as a local contact who the student can go to with questions about the area (i.e. post office location, hair salon recommendations, best pizza place...).
- Attend games or performances to cheer on the student
- Check in with the student at least monthly. (You do not have to get together every month, but we ask that you send a text or call to ask how the student is doing.)
- Have fun with the experience! Let it organically take shape. Each family will have a slightly different experience, and that is great! We'll learn from each other and improve the program every year.

Remember, students have on-campus options for transportation, meals, and lodging – you are not required or expected to provide any of those things, even during the holidays. Do not give your student cash (NAIA allows gift cards, but not cash), and if you have concerns about your student's financial situation including tuition stress, please contact us.

Students **should not** expect...

- Transportation to or from the airport or to borrow a car
- Weekly meals or holiday invites
- Money and/or tuition assistance
- That student's family members can stay with your hospitality family

MMU Contact Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the Mount Marty contacts below.

Johanna Jablonoski - Director of Family Relations, 605-668-4020
family@mountmarty.edu

Maggie McMahon - Director of Residence Life, 605-668-1551
maggie.mcmahon@mountmarty.edu

Andy Bernatow - Athletic Director, 605-668-1601
abernatow@mountmarty.edu

Important Information:

Student Visa Information: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

NAIA Information: <https://www.naia.org/landing/index>

NAIA Gift Rules:

A prospective or enrolled student-athlete may receive benefits from other individuals, including but not limited to institutional and club coaches, faculty members and friends. Such individuals may provide occasional meals, transportation, entertainment, gifts or personal fundraisers. Benefits received unrelated to athletics or status as a student-athlete are permissible. Providing cash or preloaded debit cards is strictly prohibited. Ultimate responsibility for applying this regulation rests with the institution.