

## DISPUTES and DISAGREEMENTS

A great billeting experience is essential for a good hockey experience. The key to a success is GOOD COMMUNICATION with all parties involved. If problems arise, they should be addressed immediately. Neither the players nor billets should be reluctant to better a situation. Your first contact should be the Billet Coordinator. The Billet Coordinator will try to resolve the issue quickly and may get the coaches involved if need be. Please respect this 'Chain Of Command' as our coaching staff is usually very busy throughout the year.

## WORDS of ADVICE from VETERAN PLAYERS

- ☐ Treat them and the house like its your own
- ☐ Don't be shy and be active with the family
- ☐ Tell them what's best for you and anything they need to know
- ☐ It might be uncomfortable in the beginning, but the sooner you open up and talk with your billet the smoother the transition will be
- ☐ Be comfortable and be sure to express your needs to get the best experience
- ☐ Be respectful and if you have any problems be sure to communicate with them
- ☐ Be open to new food and have fun with it
- ☐ Be respectful and honest with your billets and you will have a much better experience

Welcome to the GCL Family

Go Jacks!



# Granite City Lumberjacks Host Family Guide

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Billet (Host Family)Coordinator	Cindy Battleson	320-293-5865
General Manager/Co-Head Coach	Brad Willner	320-908-0244
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## WHAT IS A BILLET FAMILY?

Hosting, or "billeting", is a hockey tradition. From youth players to junior players in the United States and Canada, the billeting tradition has helped many young athletes get acclimated to their new cities, schools and teams. Host families from the local community provide these players the opportunity to pursue their dreams in a supportive and nurturing environment, by opening up their homes to them. The role of a billet family is instrumental in providing a complete junior hockey experience for these young hockey players. Our players are here in search of their dream to play hockey at the collegiate and professional level. This is not possible without the support and generosity of our host families. Host families provide structure, authority and become an extended family for these young players, thus providing an ideal environment for them to remain focused and compelled to achieve. Hosting a Granite City Lumberjack player is a great experience, whether you have a house full of kids or you live alone. They will bring energy and excitement to your home, and you will get to know a great bunch of parents and families that are part of our unique organization.

## **BILLET FAMILY EXPECTATIONS**

Our coaching staff works hard at identifying young men with not only hockey talent, but strong moral and ethical values as well. For the most part, our players are good people and you should expect the players to be respectful and helpful in your presence and in your home. The Billet Coordinator tries to make the best fit with a family as possible. It's a good idea to touch base with the player's parents and establish a relationship with them to gain an understanding of what is expected of their son. When a player arrives at your home, it is important that they know your house rules. Clearly define your expectations and ask the player for his expectations of you and your home.

- ☐ Provide a furnished room for the player or a furnished room to share with another teammate (not another household member)
- ☐ Provide nutritious meals for the player or have food on hand that the player can prepare on his own. You are not expected to cook all the meals for the player, but you are expected to have the food available so they can make meals for themselves
- ☐ Have family meals whenever possible
- ☐ Allow the player to use amenities in the home such as Internet, TV, washer, dryer, etc.
- ☐ Comply with USA Hockey screening requirements
- ☐ Provide a clean, family atmosphere for the player
- ☐ Respect the player. They will be experiencing all kinds of different emotions while being away from home. For some of these young adults, this will be their first time away from home. The players need their own 'space'; however they also require reinforcement, trust and encouragement from their Billets. The rule of thumb is to provide the same kind of care and attention that you would extend to a member of your own family
- ☐ Players are considered "one of the family", not just a boarder. A host family is to provide structure for the player by creating "home rules" and helping enforce team rules relating to curfew, visitors and standards of behavior. Some things that should be discussed and agreed upon with your player(s) include:
  - ☐ The use and care of appliances
  - ☐ The upkeep and cleanliness of common areas in the house and identify any areas that are out of bounds (i.e. home office, liquor storage)
  - ☐ Rules and usage of computer and internet
  - ☐ Your refrigerator and food rules should be clearly defined. Ask your player for any food preferences and allergies
  - ☐ You are not expected to provide 'junk food', protein drinks, vitamins, toiletries or meds.
  - ☐ Billets are not expected to wait up for players
  - ☐ Players are not to be used as childcare providers. Any arrangements made in this area should be clearly discussed with the players and mutually agreeable.

- ☐ Do not lend money to your player. If you do it is at your own risk
- ☐ Players do most of their own laundry. Your willingness to help out with small loads is much appreciated but not expected
- ☐ Duties and household chores you expect your billet to perform should be clearly defined and within reason. The players are expected to help out with household chores and are expected to keep their living areas clean (bedroom, bathroom, etc.)
- ☐ Each household operates differently and hopefully mutually agreeable arrangements can be made. The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open. Should problems arise, or situations that make you feel uncomfortable, please feel free to contact the Billet Coordinator.

## **PLAYER EXPECTATIONS**

Keep in mind that it is not a right to live at a billet's home but a privilege. Always project a positive image of yourself and your team.

- ☐ Complete the GCL Housing Application and the GCL Player Billet Agreement.
- ☐ Have their own spending money for day-to-day expenses.
- ☐ Supply your own personal hygiene products (toothpaste, shampoo, etc)
- ☐ Players must notify the billet family regarding their whereabouts and are expected to follow all curfews and to advise their billet family if they will be out late.
- ☐ Sleepovers with partners are not permitted. Overnight guests must be approved by the billet family.
- ☐ Report concerns with their Billet Family to the Billet Coordinator and their parents.
- ☐ Advise their Billet Families of their team practice and game schedule.
- ☐ Show respect and consideration towards all family members. If any house rules are broken, the player may be released from the Lumberjacks.
- ☐ Provide for their own transportation or make arrangements for transportation.
- ☐ Take care of their room, including keeping it clean and doing their own laundry.
- ☐ Notify the host family of their whereabouts and stay in the billet home each night
- ☐ When traveling to away games, players are responsible for their own meals.
- ☐ Mind the curfew times and notify the Billets if curfew cannot be made.
- ☐ Pay the Billet Fee every month on time.