



## HOST A BASQUE STUDENT THIS SUMMER!

June 28 - 30 – Basque students arrive  
July 15-21 – Basque students at camp  
July 28 - 30 – Basque students depart

### WHAT? Opening your home in Jesus' name.

Be a missionary in your own home by inviting a Basque student to be part of your family for the month of July. Our program started with a family who went out of their way to share their lives and the love of Christ with a Basque teen. You can do the same!

### WHY? The purpose of *Summer In The USA* (SUSA)

Each July, Christian families from churches across the USA host high school students from the Basque region of Spain as part of an English immersion and cultural exchange program called **Summer In The USA (SUSA)**. **The program is designed to create a relational context in which Basque teens hear and experience the Gospel.** To date, there is NO indigenous Basque speaking church among a people group of almost 3 million who have had exposure to Christendom for centuries. So, for these students it's very likely the first time in their lives they will hear the message of Jesus.

Missionaries attempting to share the Gospel have often been frustrated by a resistance to traditional evangelism and to religion in general, that exists in the socio-political enigma that is the Basque Country. Some missionaries have reported not being invited into a Basque home, even after many years. The Basques suspicion of religion is a reality that must be acknowledged, however, it's not the end of the story.

An equally important cultural reality is the incredibly high value that Basques put on relationships; and this is exactly why the *Summer In The USA* program has been so effective. While the students are here they have the chance to build real relationships within the context of a Christian home and community. This has a profound effect on the students that not only opens the door for life-long relationships, but genuine conversations about God, life, and the Gospel!

Host families and other volunteers who then travel to Basque Country are invited into Basque homes and treated in a way that says only one thing: 'we're family now'. The power of this "reverse mission" cannot be overstated and we believe is God-ordained.

**The ultimate goal of SUSA is the realization of a Basque speaking church and we believe that SUSA functions as catalyst to this end in 3 ways: 1) Mobilizing intercessory prayer for the Basques, 2) Abundant Gospel sowing among the Basques, 3) Mobilizing Basque believers to reach their own.**

### HOW is the summer program organized?

Participating churches form volunteer teams of 8-10 host families who are supervised and supported by a coordinator. The Basque students live with their host families for the month of July during which their time is shared between organized group activities and time with their host family. During the third week of July they attend Young Life camp or a similar Gospel-centered experience.

### The flow of the month:

Week 1: Connect with host family.  
Week 2: More group activities.  
Week 3: Camp is 24/7 fun!  
Week 4: A final week to cement the relationship with host families and process what they experienced.

### Host Family Characteristics:

- 1. A love for God and others:** Host families desire to follow Jesus and share his love with others.
- 2. A gracious attitude:** The ability to graciously listen to different opinions and lovingly accept a broad range of people.
- 3. A hospitable heart:** The effort to invite others in and make them feel welcome through conversation and togetherness.
- 4. A missional mindset:** Host families desire to sacrifice their time, talents and treasure for the sake of people who need Jesus. The experience isn't viewed as a one-time cross-cultural experience but what hopefully will become a long-term relationship with a Basque student and his/her extended family.
- 5. A church recommendation:** Host families need to be recommended by their small group leader or by another church leader with whom they have an established relationship.

### Logistics:

- 1. Room and board.** It's common for students to share a room with American siblings.
- 2. Supervision:** A parent or responsible teen must be with Basque student at all times. This often means that there is a stay-at-home parent but it can also work great to "team" with another family or single who your student can be with during the day if both parents work.
- 3. Training:** Participate in monthly meetings with other host families in your church. (April – June; there are three, 2-hour meetings)
- 4. Finances:** Hosting a student adds some extra expense for things like food, utilities and activities you may choose to do as a family. These extra funds can be absorbed by the host family or raised in the form of donations. This truly is a mission trip.
- 5. Life stage:** There is no ideal life stage; newly married, empty-nesters, or anywhere in between! You will be supported by your coordinator and the other host families in your group.