



# PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS

INDIANA-RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL

## HOST FAMILIES for the BRAZILIAN YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM 2011

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR:** Caring, understanding Indiana families to home-host a Brazilian teen, ages 15 to 18, from Rio Grande do Sul, Indiana's Partner state.

**BENEFITS:** Get to know a warm, friendly teen from the land of the Gauchos (gah-oo'-chose) while giving your family the experience of a lifetime. Learn about the rich culture and beautiful countryside of Brazil's southern-most state. Learn a few Portuguese words, taste some Brazilian food, expand your family's cultural horizons and make a lifetime friend.

**WHEN:** Youth Ambassadors arrive the second week of January and stay until the second week of March – 8 weeks. Specific dates change each year depending on the holidays and flight availability. These months are chosen to coincide with summer vacation in Brazil.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Brazilian Youth Ambassadors and/or their families are all members of Rio Grande do Sul Partners of the Americas. They are selected by a Rio Grande do Sul Partners Committee following a rigorous interview process that evaluates their English proficiency, dedication to volunteerism (especially the work of Partners of the Americas), mature enough to live in another culture for an extended period, and qualifications to be good ambassadors for Brazil and Partners of the Americas.

**HOSTING:** Host families must be committed to integrating the Brazilian students into ordinary family activities. Family sightseeing excursions are encouraged. All Youth Ambassadors come with pocket money.

**SCHOOL:** Youth Ambassadors are expected to participate in school regularly or in a home school program. They are not in school for credit, but are expected to do homework, take tests, and fully participate in classes. Youth Ambassadors are also expected to perform some type of volunteer service. Indiana Youth Ambassador Coordinators in Partners will help with ideas.

**INSURANCE:** Youth Ambassadors carry health insurance approved by Partners of the Americas that is valid in the United States. They also have authorizations for medical treatment and travel signed by their parents.

## **BACKGROUND**

RIO GRANDE DO SUL is the southernmost state in Brazil, bordered by the South Atlantic, Uruguay and Argentina. It is about three times the size of Indiana and is known as the Gaucho State. It is rich with the heritage of the proud Gaucho cowboy, as well as the German and Italian immigrants who made Rio Grande do Sul their home in the early 1800's. Its capital is Porto Alegre, slightly larger than Indianapolis. The climate is sub-tropical with four distinct seasons. Participants will come from various parts of the state, from small towns, rural areas or the state capital.

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