

SO, YOU'RE HOSTING A STUDENT FROM REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA.



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Fridge!

Thank you for hosting with AYA!

We understand that this is not only a very exciting time for you, but you may also be feeling nervous. Fear not! **Here are some helpful hints to help make your year a successful one.** *(Please note: while this information is mostly typical of a culture, it does not apply to all students. Every personality is different, so keep that in mind!)*

Please be Aware...

Georgia is a traditionally Orthodox Christian country. Students may observe certain holidays or fasting periods. While religious devotion varies, respect for tradition is common.

Gender roles may be more traditional. Male students may act protectively or formally, and female students may be modest or deferential in mixed settings. Encourage equal participation gently.

Georgia's recent history includes political conflict and economic challenges. Some families may have deep emotional ties to national identity. Approach questions about politics or Russia with sensitivity.

1 Respectful Communication

Georgian students tend to be respectful, soft-spoken, and formal with adults. They are taught to avoid confrontation, speak politely, and show humility. Your student may seem reserved at first, but that's part of their upbringing — they'll open up once trust is built.

2 Strong Family Ties

Family plays a central role in Georgian life. Many teens have close, daily communication with parents and extended family. Family honor and obedience are emphasized. Don't be surprised if your student is cautious about behavior and rules — they're used to respecting elders.

3 Hospitality

Hospitality is a core Georgian value. Your student may frequently offer help, bring small gifts, or try to show gratitude. They may also avoid asking for things directly (even when needed), so keep communication open and check in gently.

4 Food Habits

Georgian meals are a big part of the culture, often shared and slow-paced. Common foods include bread, cheese, beans, dumplings (khinkali), and stews. Your student may miss Georgian cuisine but will be excited to share their traditions. They may not be used to eating on the go or processed food.

5 Private at First

Teens from Georgia may be shy or careful in unfamiliar settings, especially when it comes to expressing opinions or feelings. It's not uncommon for students to listen more than speak until they feel safe. Patience and warmth go a long way.