



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

To The Prospective Billet Family,

I am excited for your consideration to host an out-of-town player during the 2021-22 season! Billeting is entrenched in the history of amateur hockey programs all over North America, and continually proves to be an enriching experience.

The Windy City Storm aims to attract talent from across the world and to develop them on, and off the ice. Essential to that is a supportive and comfortable home away from home, where players can become part of your family and create lifelong friendships.

Below, you will find all pertinent details of The Windy City Storm Billeting Program (WCSBP) to better help you and your family understand the standards and expectations set out by the staff.

If you have any further questions, I can be reached by email (MikeMonti1984@gmail.com), or on my cell phone (631-834-4889).

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration!

Mike Monti
WCSBP Coordinator
U18 Head Coach



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

2021-22 BILLETING PROGRAM HANDBOOK

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	.....	3
THE BILLET FAMILY	.....	3
THE BILLETING PLAYER	.....	4
WCSBP/BILLET COORDINATOR	.....	4
WCSBP PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT	.....	5
FAMILY/PLAYER COMMUNICATION	.....	6
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	.....	6
REGISTRATION LINKS	.....	7



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are rewards in it for everyone.

For the billet families, it means opening up their homes to young hockey players giving them an opportunity to share experiences within the billet family unit. For the player being billeted, it is a chance to share different cultural and social experiences. For all of us, it is a time to make new friends, renew old friendships, share ideas, laugh and live in a different family situation.

THE BILLET FAMILY

Prerequisites

- Live within a reasonable distance to the Orbit Ice Arena (615 S Consumers Ave Palatine, IL 60074).
- Fill out the billet family application online (www.windycitystorm.com).
- Complete a background check with [USA Hockey](#).
 - Register as a volunteer.
 - Complete safesport course associated with USA Hockey.
- Complete an on-site billeting inspection (arranged by the Windy City Storm staff).

As a Host Family your role is.....

- To be a mentor, friend, counselor, and a good role model.
- To provide a clean, family-oriented environment.
(Accommodations must be available to the player for length of season, school year, or work agreement, as agreed upon by the billet player and host family).
- To provide nutritious meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), as well as snacks.
- To provide access to amenities (washer, dryer, wifi, TV, etc).
- To provide Own room or shared room with a second billet player.
(Room should have a bed, desk, and bureau, closet space, chair and basic necessities).
- To listen and give encouragement.
- To support and build up their self-esteem.
- To treat the player as “one of the family”.
- To provide transportation if and when needed.

Host Family Compensation

- A credit of 20% will be applied to your 2021-22 Windy City Storm tuition.
- A monthly stipend of \$15.00 per day (\$450/month), payable directly to the billet family from the billet player.



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

THE BILLETING PLAYER

Prerequisites

- Fill out the billet player application online (www.windycitystorm.com).
- Agree to the WCSBP Code of Conduct.
- Complete a stipend agreement with the billet family.

As a Billeting Player, Your Responsibility is to.....

- Keep in mind that it is not a right to live at a billet's home but a privilege.
- Project a positive image of yourself and your team.
- Show gratitude and be helpful at all times (chores, household duties, etc).
- Keep their areas clean and clean up after themselves.
- Have their own spending money for day-to-day expenses.
- Be accountable for their schooling.
- Notify the billet family regarding their whereabouts (meal times, road trips, practice times, etc.).
- Follow all curfews and to advise their billet family if they will be out late.
- Sleepovers with partners are not permitted
(any overnight guest should be approved by the billeting family).
- Advise their Billet Families of their team practice and game schedule.
- Adhere to Windy City Storm Billet Code of Conduct (see page 5).
- Adhere to any other miscellaneous house rules.
- Report any issues of concern with their Billet Family to the billet coordinator.

Billet Player Fees

- A monthly stipend of \$15.00 per day (\$450/month), payable directly to the billet family from the billet player.

WCSBP / BILLETING COORDINATOR

Our responsibility is to...

- Handle logistics in billet family / player matching.
- Conduct all prerequisites.
- Oversee each billet family/billet player arrangement to ensure a professional and enjoyable relationship has been established.



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

WCSBP PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

*****ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY***. Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping, Tobacco, Illegal supplements all have zero tolerance policy.**

- Players must 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.
- Players must show gratitude and be helpful at all times.
- Players should keep their areas clean and clean up after themselves.
- Players should have their own spending money for day-to-day expenses.
- Players are responsible for their schooling.
- Players must notify the billet family regarding their whereabouts. (Note that if leaving town players should inform coaches and club representatives).
- All players are to respect the meal times established by the billet family and be present and on time. Players should inform their billet families if they will not be home or on time for dinner. Players are expected to help out the billet families in the kitchen by assisting with meal preparation or meal clean up.
- Players are expected to follow all curfews and to advise their billet family if they will be out late.
- Sleepovers with partners are not permitted. Any overnight guest should be approved by the billeting family.
- Billeded Players will report any issues of concern with their Billet Family to the Coach or Billet Coordinator as well as to their parents.
- Players will advise their Billet Families of their team practice and game schedule.

**PLEASE AGREE TO THIS ELECTRONICALLY ON THE WCSBP
WEBSITE REGISTRATION LINK (LOCATED ON PAGE 8)**



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PLAYERS AND BILLET FAMILIES

The following are some things that you and your billet family should sit down and discuss shortly after your arrival. Knowledge of what is expected avoids misunderstandings.

- Answering the phone and taking messages
- Removing shoes upon entry of home
- Bathroom rules
- Rules when having visitors
- Cleanliness of bedroom
- Shower times
- Durations of phone calls, internet, TV usage
- Snacks/Food allergies – likes and dislikes
- Where to store hockey equipment
- Who gets the mail and where to put it
- Spare car keys
- Toilet seats
- Laundry, where it goes, who does it
- Player's family in town
- Wet towels
- Quiet times
- Where to park your car
- Family time
- Meal times
- Emergency contacts

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is billeting? Billeting is when a local family welcomes into their home, a visiting player. The family that offers to help in providing a safe place for the visiting player is called a host family.

2. Why billet? Billeting can be a very exciting and rewarding experience for the host family and player. Many families stay in touch with their billets as they move through the university and professional ranks.

3. What makes a great billet? A caring, sensitive and patient family! It can be overwhelming for a player to be so far away from home. Appreciate his uniqueness and understand that a positive experience requires communication and mutual understanding. The host family may be a two-parent family, single parent family and, occasionally an "empty nester". The common denominator is a desire by the family to make a difference in a player's life.

4. Can a family host more than one player? Yes! Two (or more) players can share transportation, expenses etc.



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

5. How long does the billet last? The length of stay depends on the family and the player. Some players stay with a family throughout the hockey season, while others arrange to live with the family throughout the calendar year to satisfy academic or employment obligations. The length of the stay is one of the key determining factors we use to match billet family and player. However, we recommend that players leave the host family at the end of the playing season to allow the family personal time and space.

6. Is there compensation to the host family? Yes, the billet fee for the season will be \$15.00 per day / \$450 per month, for the duration of the season, as agreed upon by the host family and host player. In addition, WCS families will receive a tuition discount:

Billeting 1 player: 20% off of tuition for one player.

Billeting 2 players: 30% off of tuition for one player.

Referral Discount: Receive a \$500 credit towards your tuition if you refer an outside family to host a player and welcome them into their home (with WCSBP approval).

7. Who pays if a player is injured or needs medical attention during his stay? Players must have medical insurance from their own families. Host families are never responsible for medical payments.

8. Will players join our family for personal events? You are welcome to invite players to join you for family celebrations or activities however, it is not mandatory. All players will have time off for the holidays and may choose to travel home.

9. Will my player attend school or have a job? Yes, all players should be enrolled in school (local or online option), as well as their involvement in local community service.

10. What do I do if it doesn't work out as planned, or my family situation changes? We ask that if you are ever unable to fulfill all the obligations and commitments to the player, please let Billet Coordinator know immediately so we can make other housing arrangements.

11. Will I have to pass a background screening? Yes, all members of the host family household, must pass a background screening.

12. When do we start? WCS players report to Orbit Ice Arena in mid August and stay until the end of the regular season. If the team qualifies for the playoffs, the players stay through the end of the postseason (mid-April).



THE WINDY CITY STORM HOCKEY CLUB

REGISTRATION LINKS

BILLET FAMILY REGISTRATION FORM

[ENTRY APPLICATION](#)

[USA BACKGROUND CHECK](#)

BILLET PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM

[ENTRY APPLICATION](#)