



Billet Families / Player Housing

The billeting concept is something of a hockey tradition, and is especially important at the junior level of hockey. It involves host families opening their homes to out-of-area players, and provides an opportunity for these young men to pursue the next step in their developing hockey careers.

The billet program also allows players to complete high school educations, take college preparatory classes, and pursue part-time employment in the local community.

The Palm Beach Hawks are currently looking for Billet Families to help with player housing for the 2011-12 Season. Each season we will be recruiting talented players who show great potential to play at an elite level, who do not live within a reasonable driving distance of the Palm Beach Hawks home rink. To take advantage of this great opportunity the players need families willing to share their homes, and become a "home away from home" for them.

What is expected of the host family? The player needs a room of his own, or can share with a team member. He needs a bed, bureau, closet space and a desk or table and chair. While players are expected to provide such items as bed and bath linens, personal care items, cell phones, and their own electronics, each housing situation has its own unique set of circumstances (some might need help with transportation, others might not). The family also needs to provide the players with three meals a day: a basic breakfast, a bag lunch and an evening meal. When the players are on the road, they take care of their own food expenses.

What is expected of the players? They must obey all team and house rules and show respect and consideration toward all family members. They need to take care of their own belongings and do their share around the house. The coaching staff will monitor players and Host Families will have ongoing dialogues with the coaches to address any concerns.

How long is a host family's commitment? This varies depending on the player. Some are with the family during the hockey season only. Others need to complete the school year. Some players go home for the weekend as often as the game schedule permits. All go home over holiday breaks.

Families receive a monthly billeting payment for each player. Some have found it easier to house two players as they then travel together and are company for each other. There have been some instances when 3 players, or even 4, have been welcomed by one family. Host families have included traditional 2-parent families, single-parent families and "empty-nesters" too. All that's really needed is a willingness to help a player pursue his dream

Want to talk about being a host family? **Please call our billet coordinator Deborah Hefferin at 561-305-6983.** Your willingness to share your home and family is all it takes, and the players will thank you many times over!

**Thank You –
The Palm Beach Hawks Hockey Club
Lake Worth, FL**