

2018 - 2019 HOST FAMILY INFORMATION



As one of our Nation's most modern Tier III Junior hockey programs, the Milwaukee Power (MKE) organization is built to serve the most aspiring, dedicated, and hardest working athletes from across the country who seek to achieve their utmost in pursuit of the highest echelons in hockey. The Milwaukee Power Junior Team participates within the NA3HL; North America's premier Tier III Junior Hockey League primarily serving as the developmental springboard for athletes into either the next levels of Tier I or Tier II Major Junior and or directly into Major Collegiate Ice Hockey. Our purpose at MKE is to provide athletes with superior coaching, guidance, exposure, development, education, and opportunities with the intent of best facilitating each individual's dreams becoming reality. MKE anchors itself to the holistic approach towards student-athlete development and plans to successfully place numerous individuals into Major Junior and NCAA opportunities. Ultimately, our MISSION will always be the long-term development of each athlete's utmost; to prepare them not only for the myriad of potential opportunities attainable within the great sport of hockey, but even more so for the game of life.

We Need Your Help

It is in this mission we find ourselves seeking the assistance of individuals and families alike from across the Greater Milwaukee region to support MKE in providing this same level of development and opportunities to the forthcoming generations of student-athletes through becoming a host or "billet" family.

What is Billeting?

Due to the nature of our sport, many of North America's top student-athletes leave home at a certain age to play for prestigious Major Junior programs (level of hockey prior to NCAA participation). A Billet family home is the act of a local family graciously opening their home to these out-of-state youths to create a "home away from home" environment. A longstanding tradition in hockey, billet families allow student-athletes the opportunities to pursue their utmost and dreams in a fashion unavailable to these individuals at home.

Billeting FAQ's:

Are billet families paid?

- A pre-established fee of \$300 per player per month is paid directly to the billet family. This helps with additional household expenses, especially food and drink. Billet families are asked to provide three meals per day and snacks for their players. Besides offsetting the expenses a family incurs when hosting a player, the compensation acknowledges the invaluable service billet families provide to the individual players and MKE.

Is there a "typical" host family?

- Host families may be two-parent families, single-parent families, and, occasionally an "empty nester." The common denominator is a desire by the family to make a difference in a student-athlete's life.

What makes a great billet family?

- An open, sensitive and patient family. An environment that is safe, secure, welcoming to the opportunity of pursuing hockey, and to learn/grow in. It can be overwhelming for a player to be so far away from home and away from their family. A thoughtful billet family appreciates that each player is unique, and that communication and understanding takes mutual effort. Billet families are those who truly wish to share their home and family with a developing student-athlete. We do not accept billet families who are interested in money alone. Such motive is obvious to student-athletes/MKE and interferes with the intended billeting experience.

Can a family host more than one player?

- Yes. Two players can be housed together, share transportation expenses, and through this often provide camaraderie for one another. The only requirement is that each player has adequate space/living arrangements. Each player is expected to have his own bed, closet or dresser, and acceptable access to a restroom (much as a college dorm would provide for a student: bed, desk & chair and clothing storage).

How long does a player stay?

- Players arrive in mid-August. The host family commitment is through the end of the hockey season (typically through April 1st). Sometimes an arrangement is made between the player's family and the billet family for the player to stay until the end of the school year. Nearly all games are played on weekends, so the player will either be at home or on the road with the team each in-season weekend. Some players choose to head home on rare off weekends or during holiday breaks.

Who pays if a player is injured or needs medical attention during his stay?

- Players must have medical insurance from their own families. Billet parents are never responsible for medical payments.

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 for you to do so. All players will have time off at the holidays.

Will I have to pass a background check?

- Yes, the USA Amateur Hockey Association requires background screenings for billet families. Everyone affiliated with MKE including Staff, Coaches, Team Managers must be screened.

Are billet families responsible for driving players to school and practices?

- No. Players will either have their own transportation or transportation will be arranged for them by the team. It is never the expectation that the billet family transport their player. If a billet family chooses to provide transportation, it is highly recommended that the player not be allowed to drive a billet family vehicle. If a player is allowed to drive a billet family vehicle, the family should verify insurance coverage for the player with their insurance agency in advance.

What happens if I have to travel during the time that the player is in my home?

- If you or your family need to be away from home at any time and are uncomfortable leaving your billeted player behind, MKE will make arrangements for your player to stay with a teammate while you are away.

Benefits of Billeting:

Billeting can be a very exciting and rewarding experience for all those willing to open up their homes to dedicated players of the Milwaukee Power. Many families who have billeted in the past usually look back at their experience with fond memories as the experience tends to be just as or even more rewarding for the billet family than the player. Many lifelong friendships between families are forged through this process while most families still remain in touch with their players as they move through the next levels of Major Junior, Collegiate, professional hockey, and beyond.

For Additional Information & To Express Your Interest Please Contact Our Billeting Director

Ericka Clements:



[\(801\) 502 - 0827](tel:(801)502-0827)



ericka@MKEpower.Com



[@MKEPower](https://twitter.com/MKEPower)



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