

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ABOUT THE BILLET PROGRAM

### **Q. What are the benefits of being a billet family?**

Billeting can be a very exciting and rewarding experience for all those willing to open 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 remain in touch with their players as they move through the next levels of Major Junior, Collegiate, professional hockey, and beyond.

### **Q. What makes a great billet family?**

An open, sensitive and patient family. 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 mutual understanding takes effort. Billet families are those who truly wish to share their home and family with a billet. We do not accept billeteers who are interested in money alone. Such motive is obvious to players and the Milwaukee Power program, and interferes with the intended billeting experience: a safe, secure, welcoming environment to have the opportunity of pursuing hockey, to learn and grow in. 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 young athlete’s life.

### **Q. What does the billet family provide?**

A separate room for the player (or a shared room for 2 players) furnished much as a college dorm would provide for a student: bed, desk & chair and clothing storage. Nutritious meals including breakfast and dinner. A patient, caring and friendly home atmosphere. The same attention and guidance you would want for your own children.

### **Q. Can a family host more than one player?**

Yes. Two players can be housed together, share transportation expenses and 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).

**Q. What are the player's responsibilities?**

As a member of the household, players are expected to show respect and consideration for all host family members. They are required to follow all household rules as well as share in the daily chores, maintain their own room and do their own laundry.

**Q. Is there compensation to the host family?**

Yes, families receive a pre-established billeting payment of \$300 for each player each month. Billet families are asked to provide food for 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 families provide to the individual players and the Milwaukee Power Hockey program.

**Q. How long do players stay? What sort of time commitment do I need to make?**

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 home or on the road with the team each in-season weekend. Some players choose to head home on the rare off weekends or during holiday breaks.

**Q. After I have been successfully approved as a host family, am I guaranteed a player?**

Players and host families are matched based upon a number of factors. While it's possible not every billet family will be assigned a player at the start of the season, you will most certainly remain on the list and be considered if new players are brought in during the season.

Additionally, once you have been approved as a host, your application will be stored in our database for as long as you would like, allowing us to offer you regular opportunities to host a player.

**Q. What kind of support will I be provided?**

The Power organization have appointed a designated Billet Coordinator. This person serves as your point person for all your basic questions and needs and will provide ongoing support to you and your family throughout each player's stay. Additionally, this staff member will provide regular check in both via phone and in person and in some cases even organizes activities for local host families and their players.

**Q. What age is the player I'll be hosting? Where are they from?**

Our players are between the ages of 17 and 20 and they come from all over the United States as well as a handful of player from other countries.

**Q. What happens 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.

**Q. I want to host, but now may not be the right time for me. Should I still submit an inquiry form?**

Yes, you should! Once we have approved your application, we will store it in our database for as long as you would like. This allows us to offer you both short and long-term hosting opportunities as they come in throughout the year.

**Q. Can I still host a player if I have a pet?**

Of course! In fact, some of our players prefer living with families who have pets. We simply will not present your host profile to players who have allergies or a fear of animals.

**Q. Am I allowed to invite my player on family trips?**

Yes, you are both allowed and encouraged to bring your players on family trips. Moreover, although players are not required to attend, we encourage players to participate in family events, including trips and outings.

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

No. Player 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 choose to provide transportation, it is highly recommended that the player not be allowed to drive a billet family vehicle.

**Q. 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.