



Helene's home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

summer drew to a close I was able to secure a duplex for our family only two blocks from Helene's! Our connection continued as I attended her chapter meetings and shared many cups of coffee discussing the

happenings in both our lives.

We survived the two years in Sioux Falls and made our move back to Idaho. Over the years I have been back to Sioux Falls to visit Helene. I kiddingly say she is the one thing I would come

back for! It was a tough couple of years that she, and P.E.O., made so much better.

My stay at Helene's P.E.O. Bed and Breakfast started a very special friendship that has lasted over the years. It also came with a challenge. My husband and I built a new home four years ago and after many conversations with Helene, sometimes gently nudging and other times very persuasive, I know the time will soon be here for me to start my own P.E.O. B&B. I can hardly wait and know Helene will be my biggest fan and support for this new adventure. As far as my expectations go, I hope to bring to my guests all that Helene gave to me as hostess, friend and most of all—loving sister! 🌸

## What I've Learned from Our B&B Guests & Hosts

by Sandy Paige, AM, Saint George, Utah

My husband and I have been both B&B hosts and guests, and every encounter has been a pleasure and an opportunity to learn. Through our B&B experiences, we have taken note of how to be better guests and hosts.

Saint George in southern Utah is a popular destination, and Chapter AM has a very active P.E.O. B&B program. Last year we provided 18 B&B stays, supporting P.E.O. projects, and this year we will have even more. Our B&B coordinator for Chapter AM thoughtfully provided each of our six hosts with a binder and registration sheets for guests to give basic personal and travel information. Most of our hosts also take a photo of guests and as a result we have a lovely history of stays.

### What we have learned from our B&B guests:

- Plan ahead. Inquire with the chapter contact as early as possible.
- Let your host know the anticipated time of arrival and desired departure time. It is also helpful to the host to know your travel route and travel plans so that she can check on

possible traffic tie-ups that might delay your arrival—and tell you about unexpected detours.

- Reconfirm a few days before the visit and ask about the best means of communicating with your host if you are unexpectedly delayed.
- Remember your membership card.
- Provide your travel partner's name.
- Mention food allergies or special needs, e.g., decaffeinated coffee, gluten-free diet.

Every guest we have had has sent a nice follow-up note and some have shared a token of their appreciation. Our guests have come with bean soup mix from Idaho, maple syrup from Wisconsin, huckleberry jam from Montana, a beautiful gift basket from Colorado, guest soaps from Missouri and notecards from Michigan.

### What we have learned from our B&B hosts:

- Send detailed directions to the B&B location with landmarks and information about current detours.
- Provide maps and brochures from the community with details about days and times of special sights/events.
- Recommend restaurants with tips about cost, type of food and locations that are reasonably near the B&B. One hostess even had a few restaurant menus for us to peruse.
- Welcome with a smile; we have felt our special bond at every P.E.O. home.

The P.E.O. B&B program is a win-win situation for both guests and hosts, supporting our sisterhood's projects and providing guests and hosts with happy memories.