

Dear host family,,

My name is Gustave and I am 15 years old. People call me Gus or Gugus. I have a 12-year-old sister, Constance, and a 2-year-old brother, Philippe. I live in Alsace near Colmar. My parents are separated, but I still see them both because they live close to each other.

Alsace borders Germany. It's a region famous for its Christmas markets and culinary specialties: sauerkraut, manala, bredala, kougelhoppf, flammenkuchen... My grandparents live in another part of France. In summer, I meet them in Brittany by the ocean with all my cousins. My mom is an ophthalmologist and my dad works in an architectural firm.

I'm in high school (10th class) in a program that trains me for careers in architecture and engineering.

My parents describe me as a curious, helpful, social child. My room isn't always tidy. I like looking after my little brother and playing with my sister.

I love reading, hiking, cycling and sport in general. I can sail, canoe, kayak and climb. I'm a scout and that's where I have the most friends, because we share the same values. We get together once or twice a month and go to camp in the summer for 2 weeks.

I don't have any video games at home.

I eat about everything. My favorite meals are pizza, pasta and homemade burgers, but I'm always up for discovering new dishes.

I've had a German pen pal for 2 years and I've already been to his place several times. I'm not afraid of living with another family.

I've already visited several European countries : England, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Austria, Switzerland and of course Germany; but I've never been to another continent. I'd like to take this trip to the United States because I love visiting other countries and discovering other cultures.

Both my parents were lucky enough to have been to the USA when they were my age, and they have some great memories.

My dad lived near Seattle for a year. He still keeps in touch with his host family. And my mom spent a summer near New York.

Looking forward to this summer, I'm reading up on California so I can make the most of my stay with you. I'm also hoping to improve my English, which isn't very good at the moment. My parents, Al and my English teacher helped me write this letter.

I can't wait to meet you, and get to know your family and your habits.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gus' or 'Gugus', written in a cursive style.

Hello, my name is Gus.
I love being a scout.

We camp every summer and
do volunteer work, like here
at the “Linge”, we cleaned
up a World War I site.







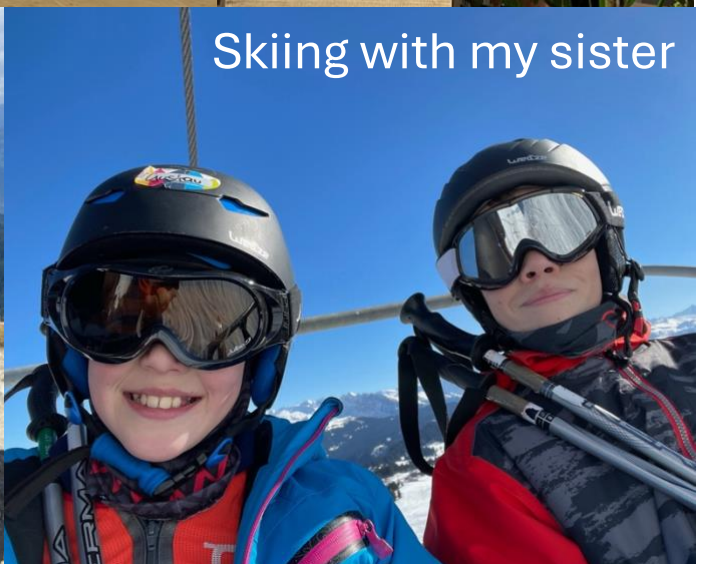
School trip to Berlin (Germany)



Church group



Hiking with Dad and friends



Skiing with my sister