



INFORMATION FOR HOST FAMILIES

The Purpose of the Home Stay

A home stay with a host family is an important element of the Student Ambassador Program. The purpose of the home stay is to introduce students to the culture and lifestyle of the host country. A short stay with a family (one to three nights) can often provide experiences that will last a lifetime, giving the student a clear understanding of the cultural differences between the host country and the United States.

Guidelines for Host Families

- To ensure the student's safety, a parent of the host family should pick up the student at the beginning of the home stay or, if the students will be riding the school bus home, there should be an adult at home when they arrive.
- The host family environment should be safe, clean, and comfortable. All Student Ambassadors require individual beds during their stay. Student Ambassadors should not be asked to share a bedroom with a host child of the opposite gender. Also, Student Ambassadors should be afforded adequate privacy for changing clothes, showering/bathing, and bathroom use.
- Meals should be offered at the times of day that are normal for the host family. Students should be encouraged to help in the preparation of meals and share all meals with the host family.
- Telephone access to the delegation leaders and local Home Stay Coordinators must be available. All students should be allowed to phone their delegation leader or delegation manager at least once during the home stay, if they request to do so. A telephone located in the home is preferred. (You may explain that each call, even a local call, is charged, whereas in the US, local calls are free. We expect students to offer to pay the local fee for their calls.)
- Family activities outside the home are encouraged in order to expose Student Ambassadors to the typical daily life of the host family. For example, students can be taken on daily shopping trips, to schools, to visit the mother or father at the workplace, or on local sightseeing trips. If the host family attends church or synagogue, students may attend also.
- If a student ambassador suffers from asthma and/or allergies, and a host family member smokes, we'd appreciate it if they would smoke outside while students are visiting.
- Host parents must be willing to accept responsibility for the safety of the Student Ambassador whom they host. ***Student Ambassadors should not be left unsupervised (without an adult present) while in the home. Student Ambassadors should not be dropped off and left unattended, and are not allowed to ride public transportation alone. Students should have access to the home or other suitable base, such as school, at all times during the stay.*** Host families should impose an evening curfew for their Student Ambassador since the students are not allowed to be out late at night.
- In the United States an individual must be 21 years of age or older to consume alcohol. Seeing that the student will not be of U.S. legal drinking age, please do not offer any alcoholic beverages to the student.
- Please do not offer any cigarettes to the student.

Rules for Student Ambassadors

1. While staying with a host family, the Student Ambassador is expected to help with household chores and act as a member of the family.
2. Students must ask permission to use the host family's telephone and are responsible for paying any telephone charges they incur. If necessary, feel free to explain that all calls are charged, even local calls.
3. A Student Ambassador is not allowed to smoke.
4. Student Ambassadors are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages at any time.
5. Student Ambassadors may not operate any motor vehicles, including motorbikes and scooters.
6. Students are not allowed to go out alone during free time. Students should not be out late at night, and host families may impose an evening curfew.

Please sign the attached form and return to your Home Stay Coordinator