



PRINCIPLES OF A SUCCESSFUL HOME STAY

INFORMATION FOR HOST FAMILIES

The Purpose of the Home Stay

Thank you for your interest in hosting a People to People Student Ambassador! 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:

- 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 within the home. Students should have access to the home or other suitable base, such as school, at all times during the stay.**
- Host families must impose an evening curfew of 11:00pm for their Student Ambassador(s) since the students are not allowed to be out late at night.
- Ideally, a host family should have at least one child of the same gender and of the approximate age (in the same age range +/- 2 years) of the visiting Student Ambassador.
- Ideally in the home stay setting, two-parent families are preferred. However, single parent families may be used if the single parent is a female with at least one child. Additionally the single parent must be available to supervise.
- To ensure the student's safety, an adult member 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.

- 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.
- Students are not allowed to baby-sit younger children while the adult host(s) is out of the home. In an emergency situation, the language barrier and unfamiliarity with customs and laws could place the safety and welfare of the host children and the Student Ambassador(s) in jeopardy.
- The host family environment should be safe, clean, and comfortable.
- All meals should be provided (i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner) at the times of day that are normal for that host family. Students should be encouraged to help in the preparation of meals and share all meals with the host family.
- Family activities outside the home are encouraged in order to expose Student Ambassadors to the typical daily life of the host family.
 - Acceptable activities include a BBQ with friends/family, local sightseeing, attending school with the home stay children, attending club activities, attending a sporting match, cooking a local delicacy or recipe with the family, community fairs/festivals, grocery shopping, souvenir shopping at a local market, etc.
 - Discouraged activities or activities that should be limited in time include shopping at a mall, going to a movie theatre, etc.
 - Unapproved activities include bungee jumping, extreme sports, operating recreational and motorized vehicles, SCUBA diving, remote camping, etc. If a waiver needs to be signed by a parent or guardian of the student for participation, it is not an approved activity.
- A host family may not take a student to a shopping mall, drop them off and leave the student there unsupervised for the day.
- Many students suffer from asthma and allergies; therefore, we ask that if a host family member smokes, to please smoke outside while students are visiting.
- If a student is allergic to animals or has asthma, all efforts should be made to place that student with a host family that doesn't have indoor pets. If a family does not have pets in the home, verification needs to be made with the family to see if any family member has frequent contact with animals, and if so what kind.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - A telephone located in the home is preferred.
- 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, **a host family should not offer any alcoholic beverages to the student or give gifts of sealed alcohol to students..**
- **A host family should not offer 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 FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO YOUR HOME STAY COORDINATOR

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2013



I _____ (Home Stay Host) agree to act as a Home Stay Host for the People to People Student Ambassador Program. I have read and understood the “Guidelines for Host Families” and agree to abide by those guidelines. I will provide a safe and enjoyable home stay experience for my host student.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail : _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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