



USA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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STUDENT HOMESTAY GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT

Congratulations on having made the decision to study in the US. Choosing to live with a host family can be one of the most important decisions you make, affecting your development for years to come. You will be dealing with different cultural values, language barriers, and social issues. Some adjustments need to be made by you as well as by your host family. What we hope is to make this a valuable experience for you, both in terms of education and personal satisfaction. In order to assure that you have a safe, rewarding and educational experience, our organization has established the following guidelines. It is essential that you read and understand them.

1. **Housing Application Fee:**

College Students - A non-refundable application fee is due with your application. Airport Pick Up is not included.

Security Deposit- Due with your application. If student cancels or does not move into host family's home deposit is non-refundable.

Airport Pickup can be arranged with additional charge. This service is only for students. Arrival time must be set between 8:00am – 8:00pm (PST), reasonable time to arrange transportation. Airport pickup fee depends on the distance from the airport to the host family's home. Airport Pickup fee is nonrefundable.

Late Application Fee- Applications received within one week prior to arrival will be charged a late fee of \$100.

2. **Monthly Stipend** (subject to change): See Website "Pricing" for current rates. Stipend will increase periodically and will affect all new and current students. Advance notice will be given by host family or USAI.

College Students – Monthly stipend is payable in advance to USA International. Due by the 25th of each month. Payment after 25th will be charged a late fee.

Homestay stipend covers room and board only. Standard 2 meals (breakfast is "self-serve" style and dinner) are included, larger portions or anything more such as organic food student would need to purchase at their own expense. Other expenses such as bus fare, transportation, entertainment such as movies or concerts and personal items are to be paid by you. The stipend is due at least 2 weeks before your move-in date so that USAI will be able to send the stipend to your host family on time after we confirm both student and host family are doing well each month. **If student moves out earlier without notifying USAI at least 30 days prior, there will be no refund.**

3. **Stipend Refunds:** Stipend is Non-refundable. If the student and/or host family have a disagreement and student decides to or is asked to move out suddenly, USA INTERNATIONAL will not be responsible for any refund. Please be aware if you do not give 30 days' move out notice and move out during a month there is no refund of the unused stipend for that month.

4. **Insurance:** All students are required to have proof of medical insurance at all times. Please provide a copy to your Host Family. It is also recommended that students purchase accident and property insurance. Host family insurance does not cover students. If you decide to drive, you must have automobile insurance, and a Washington State driver's license. Automobile insurance is required by law.

5. **Host Family:** Please remember that each host family is different. USAI does not discriminate a host family based on nationality, race, religion, sex, age or disability. Student must understand that families are diverse with different cultural backgrounds. Some families are with or without children, single parents, single adults, and retired people. host family may host more than one International student. It may be difficult to match you with a host family that meets all your expectations, and it depends on availability. Please be thankful to your host family for sharing their home with you.

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6. **House Rules:** Please follow the rules of your host family. Each family will have their own rules and lifestyle. Many families will have the rules written for you. Your host family has kindly allowed you to become a part of their family, for which they deserve your appreciation and respect. What your host family requires of you may be different from what your friends' host families require of them. If you have questions or concerns talk and clarify with your host family. Please do not "assume" so be sure to clarify with your host family.
7. **Communication:** It is important to communicate with your host family. If you do not understand your host family, it is nice to tell them that you do not understand. Please communicate in writing if something is important. If you will be late coming home, please remember to let your host family know ahead of time or please call them so that they do not worry. If you are ever in doubt about anything, please give USAI a call.
8. **Household Duties:** Living with a host family means that you are a part of the family. It is your responsibility to share household chores with your family. Please remember to clean up after yourself (washing dishes, turning off electrical appliances) You must keep your room clean shared bathroom clean and organized at all times, which includes making your own bed and washing your own clothes.
9. **Meals:** Your family will provide you with 2 meals each day. Most families have working parents who leave home early in the morning. As a result, students are expected to make their own breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is generally cereal, toast and tea/coffee, and dinner is a sit-down meal with the family mostly 3 – 4 times a week. If you will not join the family for dinner, please let your family know ahead of time. Weekends is usually brunch and dinner. Please note that meals could be very simple such as pizza, hamburger, sandwich, pasta. If you require larger portions than host provides or more variety of food or organic food, you may need to purchase on your own. You may be charged extra if you overeat. Neither non-essential groceries (ex. snacks, soda) nor your own country food are included.
10. **Energy Conservation:** Most families are very conservative and care about the environment. Please be conservative by turning off lights when you leave a room, taking short showers (no more than 10 – 15 minutes) or baths. You may be charged extra if you overuse utilities such as heat or water. If you are cold, please wear extra sweaters and ask your family for extra blankets. In the US, the washing machine and dryer is very big and therefore families usually do laundry once a week.
11. **Relatives/Guests:** Please do not have relatives or guest stay at your host family's house during your first three months at least. After three months, you must obtain permission from your host family and USA International prior to inviting anyone to stay at your host family's home. If your guest stays more than two nights, there may be an additional charge paid to host family.
12. **Vacations:** If you or your host family will go on vacation please call our office to let us know. Some host families may or may not refund any stipend if you go on vacations. If you take long vacations you may need to pack your belongings since host might need to use the room. Contact USAI about your vacation plans and belongings.
13. **Personal Belongings:** Students are responsible for their own personal belongings whether at home or at school. **USA INTERNATIONAL will not be responsible for your personal belongings.** Remember not to carry a lot of cash with you, and always keep your valuable belongings secure and locked. Students are encouraged to have property insurance. Host Family insurance does not cover student's property in case of loss or damage.
14. **Money:** You should not lend money to or borrow money from your host family or anyone else. If you need money, contact USA International so we may be able to contact your family and/or agency.
15. **Telephone: Please do not ask your host family to sign any contracts for your cellular phone.** Ask your host family about telephone rules since each family has different rules. Please do not make long distance phone calls from your host family's phone. Instead, we advise you to use a calling card, purchase a cellular phone or make collect calls only.

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16. **Internet Connection:** Some families may charge an extra fee for use of internet. Students will be held responsible in the event that you use the internet inappropriately.
17. **Damages:** Students are responsible for any damage to their host families' house properties. Please ask your host family about changing anything in your room (moving furniture, placing things on the wall and so on).
18. **Transportation:** Please do not ask your host family to drive you around too often. Students must be able to take the public bus to school and other places. Please do not depend on your host family to drive you places.
19. **Driving:** If you plan to purchase a car to drive you must obtain a WA State Driver's License and purchase car insurance. Car insurance is required by law. For students under 18 years old USAI does not recommend students to drive. If a student would like to drive, they need written permission from their parents, pass a driving class, obtain a WA State Driver's License, and purchase car insurance. USAI and host family will not be responsible for any car financial issues.
20. **Housing Commitment for Long Term Students:**
Individual College Students – By signing this agreement you are committing to stay with your host family for a minimum of one quarter (3 months).
High School Students – Students are expected to stay with their host family for one school year (Sept-June).
Exception for short term group programs.
Students must understand that homestay is not temporary housing while looking for other accommodations such as apartments or roommates. Host families look forward in hosting and getting ready to host you. You must give your host family and USAI a 30 days' written notice prior to moving out. If you do not give notice, you will be required to pay the full one-month homestay fee. The departure form is available on our website. For notices less than 30 days' you will be required to pay for one-month homestay fee. Please call USA INTERNATIONAL immediately when you decide to move out.
21. **Trial Period:** The first month of the first host family is a trial period. Both Student and Host Family will make a good faith effort to make the homestay arrangement work. However, if the student and/or host family feel(s) that it is not a good match, the student or the host family will let the other know. Student should stay the full month and host will plan to host the full month. **USA INTERNATIONAL does not guarantee that the host family will give any refund.** If student decides to move out earlier or is asked to move out earlier, there is not guarantee of a refund. It may be necessary for the student to stay with the family longer before a new accommodation can be arranged. If you want to change your host family after the trial period, there will be a service charge.
22. **Problems:** If you have a problem with your host family, please call USA INTERNATIONAL first. USA INTERNATIONAL is here to help you.
23. **Removal from Host Family:** Both student and host family must be comfortable living with each other. If either is not satisfied living together student may be asked to move out at any time. USAI reserves the right to remove a student at any time for violating host family rules or house rules, student engaging in any illegal activity, rude and impolite behavior and language. Student will not receive any refund for any fees paid. If the student and/or host family have a disagreement and the student decides to or is asked to move out suddenly there is no guarantee of any refund.
24. **Smoking:** Most host families are non-smoking families. Smoking inside and outside of HF's house is prohibited. Please make sure to indicate on your application about your smoking habits. If you state that you are a non-smoker and are caught smoking, you may need to move out immediately and pay for any damages including smoke damage.

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25. **Avoid Illegal Activities:** You are required to follow local, state and federal laws while living in the United States. You may lose your student visa status (F-1, J-1) depending on the degree of your illegal activities. Be cautious about drinking alcohol or driving without a driver's license/auto insurance, or marijuana use. Please note it is illegal for people under the age of 18 to smoke or use tobacco, and people under the age of 21 cannot drink alcohol and people under the age of 21 and/or under student's Visa cannot use marijuana. All host families do not allow marijuana use.

Keep in mind that you are visiting the U.S. as a citizen/diplomat of your country and that you are expected to behave accordingly. This means that you are representing the people of your country as being courteous, considerate, and open-minded. Please respect the ways, traditions and culture of your American Hosts and remember that you are making an impression that will last long after you leave the U.S. It is our goal to ensure that you have a successful time while in the U.S. Our goal is for you and your host family to have a lasting friendship and be understanding of each other for many years. We are here to help you. Do not hesitate to call us at any time if you have any difficulties.

Hold Harmless and Indemnification: USAI will be held harmless from and against all claims, damages, actions, liability, and expense concerning loss of life, or personal property arising from a student participating in our housing programs. I understand that the hosts are not employees or agents and that USAI has no control of host's behavior. I assume all the risks associated with injury or loss arising from my host families' behavior. I release USAI from any liability and claims against my host families' behavior.

College Students:

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the above listed rules. I also warrant all information is true. I warrant that all the information provided is true and correct, I am not a sex offender, and I have not been convicted of any crime. I also warrant I am mentally stable and physically fit to live with a host family.

Student's Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

High School Students:

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the above listed rules. I also warrant all information is true. I warrant that all the information provided is true and correct, I am not a sex offender, and I have not been convicted of any crime. I also warrant I am mentally stable and physically fit to live with a host family.

Student's Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

For High School Students Parent's/Guardian's:

We, parents/guardians of _____ have read, understand, and agree to follow the above listed rules.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Printed)

Signature

Date