



PERISCOPE

Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations' Newsletter
Host Family Edition

HOST FAMILY

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Welcome to our Cultural Exchange Program!

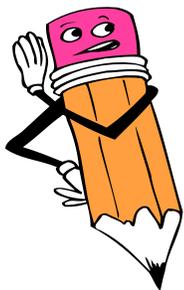
Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations would like to welcome you to our academic and cultural exchange program. We would also like to thank you for opening your hearts and homes to an international exchange student. We are certain that you and your student will create memories that will last a lifetime.

Questions??? Problems????

If at any time during this experience, you have questions or need assistance, please contact your area representative. He/she is there to assist you. If you are unable to speak with him/her, you may call our main office at 1-888-996-2326 or send an e-mail to info@hostanexchange.org. If there is an emergency after the office has closed for the day or on weekends, you should follow the emergency message procedures described in the phone message. A staff member will respond to your call as quickly as possible.



Evaluations Reports:

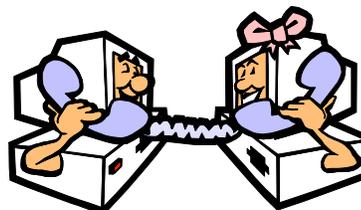


Enclosed with this newsletter are the student and host family Initial Evaluation Reports. Please complete these forms and return them to our office in the envelope provided. These reports are very important in evaluating the student's adaptation and adjustment to his/her new life in America. Please be honest in your comments. We always look forward to hearing from you!

Rules Regarding Cell Phone and Computer Usage:

Students were told during the student orientation and in the program rules and regulations that they cannot abuse the usage of cell phones and computers. Use of these items may be revoked by us and/or by your family if the student is abusing this privilege. Please do not hesitate to discipline your new host son/daughter regarding this matter. You are free to contact your area representative or our main office to let us know if your host son/daughter is excessively using these items, so we can deal with the problem early on.

We appreciate your assistance and support!



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Your Student and Household Chores

All students are told at the orientation that they are to become a true member of the host family. This means that they must assist in the same household chores as your own children. You should; however, be aware that most international students are not familiar with using the dishwasher, vacuum and washer and dryer. They may need some assistance at first until they learn how to use these appliances correctly. It might be helpful to make a list of the chores your student is expected to complete on a weekly basis.



Homesickness



It is not unusual for the students to be feeling a little homesick from time to time. You should keep in mind that they are in a completely new and different environment, and it may take some time for them to completely adjust. It is important that you limit your student's contact with his/her home country. It may seem unkind to do this; however, it will help your student adjust much more quickly. You should also encourage your student to become involved in school, host family and community activities. The busier the student is, the less time he/she will have to be homesick. If excessive homesickness becomes a problem with your student, please contact your area representative for assistance.

Health Insurance

All Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations' students have health insurance coverage should they become sick or ill during their stay in the U.S. Each student was issued an insurance card at the orientation meeting which he/she must carry with him/her at ALL times. The toll-free number on the front of this card should be called prior to taking the student to a doctor for treatment. Please keep in mind that the student's health insurance policy does not cover routine dental or physical examinations, glasses or contact lenses, non-emergency surgeries, pre-existing conditions, etc. Keep in mind that there is a co-payment of \$250 for emergency room visits unless the student is admitted to the hospital or treatment was necessary for an acute illness or accident. In all other instances, the student should go to an urgent care clinic or a general practitioner. For more details on this insurance, please review your copy of the AVI International Security Pass'Port which can be found in the Student Portfolio. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns regarding insurance matters.



Loaning/Borrowing Money:

Students are not allowed to borrow money from anyone, including you, the host family. They are also prohibited from loaning monies to anyone else. If money becomes an issue with your student, and he/she has run out of funds, please contact our main office right away so that we can resolve this issue by contacting our international representative who will in turn speak with the student's natural parents.



Orientation 2012

Prior to traveling to your home, your student attended an orientation in Phoenix, Arizona. During this orientation, he/she was given a packet containing the following information:

Cultural Search Questionnaire: This is an assignment which the student must complete and return to our main office no later than November 30th, 2012. All students were informed that this is a lengthy assignment and should not be put off until the last minute. This questionnaire asks the students several questions and requires them to make comparisons between their host community and their home community. The student may receive assistance with this assignment; however, it must be written by the student in his/her own English. Students can find a copy of the instructions in their "Guide for International Students"

Questions to Ask Your Host Family: This paper contains a list of questions that you and your student should discuss. It will help prevent some of the small problems that may arise at one time or another during the exchange experience. Students were told to go over the paper with you, write down the answers to the questions and then make a copy to send to our office for our records.

High School Information: This form is to be completed by the student and requests additional information on the school that he/she is attending.

Problem-Solving Form: This document should be completed by the student and submitted to our office whenever he/she is having problems with the host family, school, area representative, etc. You, the host family, have also received a copy of this form inside of the student's portfolio. Please fill it out and forward it to our office if you ever have any problems with your student.

Cell Phone & Computer Usage Agreement: Please go over this form with your student, sign it and return a copy to our office for our records.



These forms are also included in the "Handbook for Host Families"

Academics

Students are required to maintain a "C" average in each of their classes. We realize that they may initially have difficulties in courses such as English and American History; however, they should be making every effort to achieve satisfactory grades in these and all other courses. If your student is struggling in any of his/her classes, please let us know so that we can help. You should also inform us if your student is failing to complete homework assignments. All students were reminded at the orientation that homework is an important part of the American curriculum, and it must be completed.



Newsletter:

If you misplace your copy of "Periscope" it is always available online. Visit www.hostanexchangestudent.org for a complete copy.

Our Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Organization-for-Cultural-Exchange-Among-Nations/168874926485232>

If you are on Facebook, please become our "fan" today. We have posted photos of the students from our August 2012 orientations and invite you to take a look.

Second Home Visit:

Dear Host Family,

Please note that the U.S. Department of State is requiring organizations to have a second person visit your home other than your area representative. The purpose of this visit is to check on the student's living environment. Please note that your area representative is already aware of this and he/she should be contacting you about this matter. Please cooperate with the area representative regarding the most convenient date and time for this second person to visit your home. We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause, but it is important for our organization to follow rules and regulations as well, and this 2nd home visit is a requirement. If you have any questions, you are free to give us a call at 1-888-996-2326, Ext 5.



Things to Remember!

Please keep your area representative and our main office informed if you change your contact information (address, phone #s, and/or e-mail). You must also let us know if there are any changes in your family, such as a new person residing in your home.

All students received an insurance card and a student ID card during the student orientation. These items should be with them at all times if your host son/daughter loses these items at any point during the program, we must know right away so we can mail him/her a new copy!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR JANUARY 2013

We are currently seeking host families for January 2013. We are going to be sponsoring students from China, Colombia, Ukraine, Italy & Brazil. Please let your area representative or our main office know if you are interested in welcoming another exchange student in your family this coming January, or if you know of a friend or relative interested in this exciting opportunity. Our student profiles are ready and will be updated as we accept more students in January. Please e-mail us and we will send you a copy right away! :)



	CONTACT INFORMATION
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 Web: www.hostanexchangestudent.org
 Follow us on twitter: @oceanstudents

Many of you are hosting for the first time, and we sincerely wish that all goes well during the student's stay in your home. Here is some advice from some of our experienced families to you!

*"People hosting for the first time need to keep in mind that they are the **parent** of the exchange student, and should not hesitate to discipline the student when necessary. For example, if the student is using the computer a lot, the host parent has the right to limit the amount of time the student spends on the computer. It's really very important for host families to treat the student as their own child. They will notice that this will help prevent problems, and everyone around will end up having a good experience" Specht Family*



"I found that the most important thing that needs to happen between my students and my family is communication. Whenever the student did something that was wrong and not quite polite, I told the student right away. Sometimes not saying anything can actually cause the problem to build up, and later on when the problem needs to be resolved, it might be too late" The Levi Family

"I really love hosting, I think that this type of experience has provided a great benefit to my children as they are now more understanding of other people's differences and cultures. Some of my friends who are also single moms hesitate to host thinking that it will be a lot of work, but what I tell potential host families with this type of concern is that it's really not a lot work because there is a local person who is available to provide assistance. I have dedicated time and effort in building a strong relationship with my coordinator and this has helped me in many situations. The area rep has taken my exchange students to activities when I wasn't able to and the students enjoy that" Curlie Family

"Never give up in trying to build a healthy and strong relationship between your family and your student. There is always hope that everyone involved will have a good experience. Just because a small incident happened, it does not mean that the whole experience will be ruined. Keep in mind that your student is part of the family, and like all families, they laugh, cry, talk, argue, but with common sense, these issues are normally resolved in the end" The Morales Family