

Homestay Guidelines (Students)
New Westminster School District

Living with a Canadian Homestay family can be a wonderful cultural experience for International students. While in homestay, students have the opportunity to practice their English skills and to be part of a Canadian family.

In order to make the most positive experience for students and homestay families, the following Guidelines have been provided. These guidelines must be followed if a student decides to live with a homestay family provided by the International Education Homestay Program.

All students must live with their guardian, or a Canadian Homestay/Custodian. All host families in the Homestay Program are English speaking Canadian residents; however, they may come from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Each Homestay/Custodian has been carefully screened and visited by the Homestay Manager. We look for families who:

- a. Are kind and friendly
 - b. Enjoy sharing Canadian culture with those of other countries.
 - c. Live a maximum of 45 minutes traveling time from the School District
- ❖ If you have submitted a complete and signed application for the homestay program the Homestay Manager will begin to match you with a suitable host family. From receiving your application to sending you a host family profile is approximately two weeks depending on volume.

THE HOST FAMILY WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- A private room with bed and bedding, a desk and lamp, chair and closet, clean linen and towels, soap and toilet paper.
- Three meals a day, one of them a hot meal. Your host parent will show you how to make your breakfast and lunch, or they will make it for you.
- Use of common areas in the house (living room, bathroom, kitchen etc.), telephone and laundry facilities.
- Invitations to the student to join in family activities.
- A safe English-speaking environment.
- Custodial supervision and help while you adjust to life in Canada
- Airport pick up when you arrive in Canada.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Students are responsible for keeping their room, the bathroom and other parts of the host home that they use clean and tidy.
- 1) Host Families will explain their “house rules” to students when they begin the homestay with their host family. As outlined in the *Terms and Conditions* section of your application students are required to respect these rules. The rules will be no different for any host children in their family. Host family rules are in place to ensure the safety and well being of the students.
- 3) It is illegal for students to use alcohol or illegal drugs. The legal drinking age in Canada is 19 years. Students who have been using drugs and or alcohol may be dismissed from the program and must return home.

Respect your host family and try to integrate with them. They will assist you with a situation where a mistake has been made.

- 4) Students are responsible for their own transportation. Once you arrive your host family will orientate you to the local transportation system. Students can receive a transit schedule from the public library or receive one from their host family.
- 5) Do your best to speak only English when you are around your homestay family. When a friend who speaks your language visits your home do your best to speak English in front of your host family even with the friend who speaks your native language
- 6) If you like to spend a lot of time on the phone, it is recommended that you purchase a cell phone or speak with the homestay family about having your own phone line installed. As stated in the *Terms and Conditions* section of your application the student is responsible for the cost of cell phones, personal phone lines or personal Internet connections.

Students who want to have a cell phone will require the co sign of the homestay parent on the cell phone contract.

- 7) Always let your homestay family know where you are. While you are living with a homestay family in Canada, they will be acting as your parents. Always let them know where you are, and ask permission before planning sleepovers, or having your friends visit at your home. *If you are missing for 24 hours, they are required to report you missing to the Police.
- 8) Student property may not be covered by the host family’s insurance. Students may wish to purchase private insurance to cover their personal belongings

- 9) Students may want to bring their own lap top computer, camera and other items, which will make their adjustment to Canadian life easier as well as more enjoyable.
- 10) As stated in the *Terms and Conditions* section of your application you are expected to be home for meals or to phone ahead if you will be away for a meal. Families are expecting you to be home for dinner and will be preparing your meal for you. Homestays need to be informed if there are any changes in plans.
- 11) As stated in the *Terms and Conditions* section of your application students are not permitted to travel outside of the lower mainland unless supervised by a responsible adult 25 years or older. As well, students must provide the International Education Program with written parental permission for the trip. This permission needs to be faxed to our office prior to the scheduled trip.
- 12) As stated in the Terms and Conditions section of your application students must not travel to the United States unless accompanied by a host family custodian over the age of 25. The International Education Office must receive written permission from the student's parents prior to traveling to the United States.
- 13) Students are not allowed to entertain friends of the opposite sex in their bedrooms.
- 14) You will be given a key to the Homestay's house. Be very careful with your key because if you lose it, you may have to replace the locks to the entire house at your expense.
- 15) If you are the last person to leave the house, it is your responsibility to make sure that the lights are turned out, and your windows are closed, and the doors are locked. Also, please make sure you understand how to turn on and off house alarms if your homestay family has one.
- 16) Do not carry large amounts of money with you, or leave large amounts of money in your room. Be careful with your valuables. Your homestay family is not responsible for your property if it is lost or stolen. Your host family will assist you in setting up a bank account.
- 17) As stated in the *Terms and Conditions* section of your application students will be expected to pay for any damage that you cause to the host family's property.

- 18) Pay your fees on time, on the first day of each month, directly to your host parent. Currently the monthly fee is \$850.00 per month.

The homestay fee for grade seven and eight students is \$900.00 per month.

A nightly rate of \$28.00 per night will be charged if you are entering or leaving the Homestay Program at any time other than the beginning of the month.

- 19) If you wish to change your homestay or move to a homestay outside of the school district homestay program you must give one calendar month's written notice to both the Homestay Parent and to the Homestay Manager.

Example:

If you wish to leave your current homestay on May 31st you must inform your host family no later than May 1st. If you do not give the required notice you may lose your homestay deposit.

The Homestay Manager must receive written parental permission their son or daughter to change host families or to leave the district homestay program.

- 20) If students are having difficulties in their homestay it is important to come to see the Homestay Manager as soon as possible. The Homestay Manager will offer solutions to assist with the issue at hand. This may include the Homestay Manager speaking with the host family regarding the issue.