

HOMESTAY REGISTRATION FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Date of Birth / / Gender Male Female
mm dd yyyy

HOMESTAY OPTION

Shared accommodation Single accommodation

What is your expected length of study? _____ [# of Weeks] Date you plan to enter / /
mm dd yyyy

DESCRIBE YOURSELF (please check all items that apply to you)

- energetic humorous independent modest serious sociable reserved
 studious talkative active [sports] other _____

HEALTH

- Do you have any chronic conditions such as serious allergy, diabetes, enuresis and/or epilepsy? Yes No
 Have you ever had any psychological, nervous or eating disorders? Yes No
 Have you ever had major surgery or a serious accident or illness? Yes No
 Do you have to take any medication or to be under any medical treatment during your stay? Yes No
 Do you have any special health needs or requirements related to your housing, please describe: Yes No

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the questions above, please provide more detail at the back of this form

EATING HABITS

- Are you on a diet for medical or religious reasons? Yes No
 Are you a vegetarian? Yes No
 Are there any foods you do not eat? Yes No
 If yes, please describe _____

OTHERS

- Do you smoke? [Host Family's rules as well as State and City laws in regards of smoking have to be followed] Yes No
 Do you like children? Yes No
 Do you have any allergies to animals that would make it impossible for you to be hosted in a family with pets? Yes No
 If yes, please describe _____

TRANSFERS AND ARRIVAL

- Will you need an airport transfer on arrival? Yes No
 Will you need an airport transfer on departure? Yes No

Arrival Information: Date _____ Airline _____ Flight No. _____ Time: _____

Departure Information: Date _____ Airline _____ Flight No. _____ Time: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY [please do not write anything in this space]

Host family Name _____ Host family Telephone (____) _____ - _____
 First day of Homestay / / Last day of Homestay / /
mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy

PARTICIPANT HOMESTAY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This agreement is to be signed during your first day at school

By: _____ (The "Participant")
(print participant's name)

To: Open Hearts International College [Open Hearts]

RECITAL:

- Participant wishes to attend Open Hearts International College in the City of Miami, Florida and has requested Open
- Hearts to assist in finding a host family to reside with while attending school.

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned agrees and acknowledges as follows:

The Recital is hereby incorporated by reference.

- 1) Participant shall take part in his/her host family's (the "Host Family") daily activities and to participate in all family chores shared by the general family including, but not limited to tidying up the Participant's room and cleaning up after meals.
- 2) Participant shall be responsible for informing his or her Host Family when making plans to go out.
- 3) Participant acknowledges that Open Hearts will use its reasonable best efforts to provide the best available placement for the Participant. Participant further acknowledges that it is not guaranteed that the Participant will be matched with a family having children or persons in the same age range as the Participant, with a one-parent family, or with a two-parent family.
- 4) Participant shall give written notice to the Host Family and Open Hearts **two weeks** before the end of the Homestay session if he/she decides to terminate the agreed Homestay period or if they want to extend the Homestay period. No notice is required if the Host Family has not met the conditions of the program.
- 5) Participant shall show consideration and tolerance to Host Family members.
- 6) Participant shall invite guests to the home of the Host Family only with the knowledge and permission of the Host Family.
- 7) Participant shall keep his/her room clean and tidy and must vacuum his/her room and empty the garbage can at least once a week.
- 8) If the Participant is doing his/her own laundry, it shall be done once a week. Participant shall provide his/her own laundry supplies.
- 9) Participant shall respect the privacy and belongings of the Host Family.
- 10) Participant shall respect and follow the Host Family's rules in their home.
- 11) Participant shall be considerate of the fact that Host Families may not have large water tanks for all their needs and shall keep his/her showers to a reasonable length of time.

- 12) Participant shall ask permission from the Host Family to use the telephone, will keep calls to a reasonable length of time and shall restrict late night calls after 10 p.m. Any long distance calls should be made "collect" or using a calling card. Participants are responsible for payment of all long distance calls they make.
- 13) Participant shall consult the Host Family if he/she wishes to use the Host Family's household appliances.
- 14) Participant shall help him/herself to food only with the knowledge and permission of the Host Family.
- 15) Participant shall immediately notify Open Hearts if a difficulty arises between the Participant and the Host Family. Participant further agrees to use his/her best efforts to discuss and rectify the situation between the Participant and the Host Family.
- 16) Participant will not smoke in the Host Family's home if the Host Family does not smoke.
- 17) If the Participant does not comply with all the terms and conditions listed in this Agreement, he/she may be asked to leave his/her Host Family's home.
- 18) If the Participant is no longer enrolled at school, the Participant agrees not to set up separate agreements with the Host Family and not to give money directly to the Host Family.
- 19) If the Participant withdraws from school, he/she must also leave the household of the Host Family and the Homestay program.
- 20) Participant hereby releases Open Hearts from all actions or causes of actions relating to claims of any nature involving their stay with Host Family, including, but not limited to, injuries, fatalities, damage or loss of property or possessions.

I have read the above-stated terms and conditions and agree to abide by them as a condition of my participation in the above Open Hearts program.

Signature of Participant:

Date:

_____/_____/_____
Day Month Year

WHAT ALL STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIVING IN A HOMESTAY

Your Homestay provides you with a first-hand experience of American home life. The Homestay is the best place to practice your English.

You will probably find some cultural differences between your way of living and the American way. The goal is to be open-minded about these differences. Both hosts and students can learn a lot from each other's culture.

We are interested in knowing some of your opinions about where you are staying. It is important to us because it will help the Homestay coordinator monitor and improve the Homestays that we provide to our students. Please fill out the Homestay evaluation form after you have been with your family for a week and have had a chance to settle into your home. We would also like to remind you of some items that are very important:

The American Family

In the United States, the traditional family of two parents with children is disappearing. More and more, families may be a single parent with children, or a single adult living alone. To avoid confusion, we speak of "Homestay," rather than of "family accommodation."

Even in American families that have more traditional arrangements, family members, including children, may lead separate lives. Many students request a home in a family with children of their own age. However, few Americans over 18 live with their parents, and those who do rarely participate in group activities within the family.

You can expect that your hosts will be busy. Most men and women work outside the home, including people with children. Your hosts may also have social and professional commitments. They may not be able to spend all their leisure time with you.

The United States is a land of immigrants with a great range of nationalities and racial diversity. Our selected homes reflect this cultural diversity.

Distance

You may be living in a very large city. Long trips to work or school are common. Many American people live in suburban areas rather than in the city centre.

What to Expect From Your Homestay: Living in someone else's home can be interesting but may also be a little stressful. Sometimes you may feel homesick. It is a challenge to adapt to the way that other households do things. You are also adapting to a different culture and language. If you know what to expect from your Homestay, you will feel more comfortable.

Meals

Your host family will provide you with two meals a day during weekdays and three meals on weekends and Statutory Holidays

Breakfast:

It is likely that your hosts work, so you will need to prepare your own breakfast. Breakfast time is from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. during the weekends Your hosts will probably offer you tea, coffee, milk, juice, toast, and cereal. They may offer you eggs once or twice a week. They will not serve breakfast of bacon and eggs every day. Find out where they keep the bread, cereal, coffee, tea and juice. Ask how to use the toaster.

Lunch:

On weekends and Statutory Holidays, your Homestay family will provide you a light lunch that can include salad, sandwiches, etc. No lunch will be provided during weekdays.

Dinner:

In the United States dinner is the main meal. This is a good time to practice your new language. This is one of the most important ways to get the most out of your Homestay. Try to include being home for dinner as a regular part of your day.

Eating Customs in the United States

You will find that meals in the United States taste different from meals at home. Americans eat rice, pasta, stew, chicken, beef, fish, salad, and vegetables. Dessert is usually served at dinner. Dessert is likely to be fruit, cake, pie, ice-cream or pudding. Do not be afraid to ask for more; If you would like a second helping at dinner time, do not be afraid to ask. You could say, "That was very good, could I have some more please?" If your hosts ask if you want more, say "yes" the first time. It is not an American custom to say "no" when you mean "yes".

Allergies:

If you have any allergies, let your hosts know right away.

Let your hosts know what you like:

Feel free to tell your hosts what you like. What if there are only bananas in the house and you don't eat bananas? Tell your host: "I prefer oranges to bananas." The phrase "prefer" is a useful one to know. You can let your host know what you want without being negative. If you say, "I hate bananas," your host may be offended. It is more helpful to say what you like instead.

Expect American Food:

Expect your hosts to serve you American food. Don't expect them to know how to cook food from your country. Be adventurous and open-minded.

Ask permission before cooking:

If you would like to use the kitchen, ask your hosts if you can do this.

Avoid cooking at odd hours:

Americans usually do not like to have people cooking in their kitchen at odd hours.

Ask how to use appliances:

Appliances, such as toasters, often differ from one country to another. The first time you use an appliance, ask your host to show you how. If you happen to break an appliance, offer to replace it or repair it.

Phone if you are going to miss a meal

If you are going to miss a meal, phone and tell your hosts. Do these two hours before the meal. It is impolite to have your host cook for you if you are not going to be there. You need to let your hosts know before they begin to prepare the meal.

Your Room

You have your own room or share a room and you are responsible to clean after yourself. Some older American homes have very small closets in the bedrooms. If you need more closet space, ask your hosts for a space outside your room where you hang or store clothes. You may find that your bedroom is in a fully furnished basement. This is common in American homes. Fully furnished basements are an integral part of the home. They are also cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Always lock the door behind you when you leave the house and after you enter.

Laundry

Your host should wash your sheets and towels once a week. If they forget to do this, please remind them to give you fresh towels and sheets. They are not responsible for your personal laundry. Ask your host to show you where you should put your clothes that need to be washed. Please make sure to know how to operate the dry and wash machine and to have your own laundry supplies. Do your laundry once a week

Bathroom

You are responsible for your personal items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, and other items. You will probably share the bathroom with others. This means you may need to be flexible about shower and bath times. Very few students have their own bathroom.

Don't spend more than 15 minutes in the bathroom at any one time. If you want to take a long time in the bath or shower, check to see that nobody else is waiting to use the bathroom.

Americans usually shower or take a bath once a day. Try not to shower or take a bath more than once a day, unless it is really necessary.

Chores

You don't have to clean the house, baby-sit, or do any outdoor work. Americans usually do all major chores once a week, on Saturday or Sunday.

Most Americans do not have maids to do housework. Because most men and women work outside the home, you may see men and women and even children sharing in the household chores. You can offer to help, but you do not have to.

Always keep your own room clean and tidy. Make your bed, and put your belongings away. Once a week, clean and dust your own room. You are also responsible for cleaning up after snacks, and for washing your own dishes after breakfast. It is polite to help clear the table after dinner.

Telephone Calls

You may make local calls and collect calls from your Homestay. Ask your host to make the collect calls on your behalf. Give them the country code, area code, and telephone number. **Unless you are using calling cards you cannot make long distance calls from your Homestay.** Remember that you are sharing the telephone with the rest of the people in the home. Do not spend more than 10 to 15 minutes on the phone at any time. Tell your friends and family to call you before 10: 00 p.m. American time.

Emergencies

The telephone number for emergencies is **911**. You call this number for police, ambulance, or fire. Give the telephone operator your name and address. Say what the emergency is.

Internet

Internet connection is not mandatory in the Homestay. If the family has Internet connection please ask before using their computer. Limit your time on the Internet to 30 minutes per day. Remember that any time spent in front of the computer is time not spent talking with your host family.

Tips on How to Behave

Here are some tips about respecting your hosts.

- “Please” and “Thank you” are international phrases. Use them when you ask for or receive something.
- Always try to communicate clearly with your host. Your hosts cannot know what you are thinking. They will not know what you want if you do not tell them. If you are cold and need another blanket, say so. If you need more towels, ask.

- Always let your hosts know where you are going and when you will be home. Your hosts will worry if you are late. If your family calls, your hosts need to know where you are.
- Remember that you are a guest in someone's home. As soon as possible, ask your hosts about the rules of the house.
- Ask about TV times
- Ask about shower times
- Ask about how loud you can play music and until what time
- Ask about what rooms in the house you can use
- Ask about if there are machines you can use, such as a fax or computer, and how to operate them
- Ask about if the house has a security system, and if so, how to use it
- Americans are careful about the privacy of others. If you come into the house and go to your room and shut the door, your hosts will think that you do not want to be disturbed.
- Do not wait for your host to invite you to watch TV or talk to them. It is normal to join in these activities without waiting for an invitation.
- If you want to bring a friend home for dinner, ask first to see if that is okay.
- If you come home late, be careful not to wake the other people in your home when you come in.
- If you are not sure about "the American way of doing things," ask your host or the Homestay Director.

A guide for daily living

- If you open it, close it.
- If you turn it on, turn it off.
- If you unlock it, lock it up.
- If you break it, admit it
- If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone and ask someone.
- If it's broken, don't try to fix it; ask someone who can.
- If you want to borrow it, ask for permission.
- If you borrow it, return it.
- If you make a mess, clean it up.
- If you value it, take care of it.
- If you move it, put it back.
- If it will brighten someone's day, say it.
- If you hurt someone's feelings, be the first to say, "I'm sorry. Let's talk things out."
- If someone hurts your feelings, say, "Let's talk things out."