

Salem Academy International Student program

Host Family Guidelines

Having an international student live in your home is essentially the meeting of two different cultures in a very personal way! It's an adventure where both are exploring and learning and adapting. As in any family, there are times of stress and there are times of great fun. It is all a part of the great experience of being a host family: listening, exploring, learning, and encouraging while leaning on the Lord for wisdom, patience and understanding. He will supply!

This is not an exhaustive list of responsibilities, but are the main ones which will give you some guidelines to go by. *Please contact the Director of the ISP if you have any questions:*

Basic Responsibilities

1. Provide a loving, nurturing, comfortable home environment which supports and enhances the student's educational, social, mental and spiritual experience.
2. Provide a room in your home where the student can call his/her own. If you don't have a room, but have a space which can provide the student with privacy, please contact the ISP director.
3. Provide/arrange for transportation to the Academy, just as you would your own child. Students can be dropped off after 7 a.m. and should be picked up before 4 p.m.
4. Provide adequate discipline when called for. Because the student is a guest, any discipline should be done with great care after deliberation, or perhaps after counsel with the ISP director.
5. Pick up your arriving student at the airport and take to the airport at the end of the year.
6. Provide transportation on a regular, reasonable basis for shopping, visiting friends, school events, etc. This does not mean you are a chauffeur, but are willing to help when needed.
7. After your student arrives, after settling in, call to arrange for a student orientation.
(503-378-1211)

8. Finances:

- a. The Host Family Stipend will cover the months between September and May and the first 15 days of June. This stipend does not cover the period from June 16 to August 31 unless otherwise arranged.
- b. The Host Family Stipend you receive each month is to cover costs that arise from having another person in your home. Use it to cover costs for meals, school lunches, heating, internet connection, family outings, etc. It may not cover all costs. It is designed to help cover costs for the international student, but not be a supplement to your income to cover your own family's expenses. If you eat out, please cover the cost and do not ask the student for money. The stipend is not the student's personal money. The student will use personal money to cover personal expenses such as shopping, clothes, entertainment, etc. when it is not a family initiated activity.

c. Some students may bring a lot of cash for personal spending. We suggest that you encourage your student to open a checking account and help them get it set up.

9. Household rules:

As it is written in the “ISP Terms of Understanding”, which the students and their parents have read and signed, they have agreed to abide by all the guidelines you would set out for your own household. This means that they do not expect to be treated as special guests (even though in a sense they *are*) on a pleasure vacation. They should participate in the normal, daily chores, family activities, etc.

Write a list of “Guidelines” in simple English to share with your student.

Advice: Keep it short and simple. Post it on your refrigerator.

10. Internet Use. Please pay **careful** attention to this guideline.

The internet is a source for much positive and nurturing information, but also a potential avenue to negative and destructive web sites. Students now days are required to use the internet for many assignments. Consequently, please provide internet access under the following conditions: **(1)** No internet in the student’s rooms. **(2)** Internet access will be in a public, visible area (den, kitchen, study, etc.). **(3)** The internet can be accessed only when an adult family member is at home.

11. Travel:

On normal vacations, trips, etc. take your student along and pay for it, except for personal gifts, etc.

If you are going on a special trip which is fairly expensive, if needed we can contact the student’s parents to see if they can assist in paying for the student’s part.

If you are going on a trip and the student needs to remain at home, you can find another family to host the student while you’re away. Please communicate this with the ISP director.

ISP Students are not allowed to drive at any time. They are also not to travel alone without a responsible adult. To travel, they need your permission, permission from the ISP director, and permission from their parents. They need to let you know whom they are with and where they are at all times. See the Travel Guidelines.

12. Church:

Since your student is in a sense a part of your family, they are expected to go where you go just as if they were your own children. They have agreed to fully participate in family activities, including church. This is also a good opportunity for them to meet other youth and to make friends outside of school.

You will need to be sensitive about this. If you regularly attend church 2 or 3 times a week, pay attention to your student to sense if he/she is experiencing overload, in which case you might allow the student to stay home Sunday evenings or Wednesday evenings. Also, ISP students will need to study more than the average student, so often Sunday or Wednesday evenings are needed to hit the books.

CONTACT School : 503-378-1211 Email: ispprog@salemacademy.org