



R. D. I. E. A. Homestay Program
Red Deer International Education Alliance

Information for Homestay Students

Rules and Information

You have decided to live with a Canadian Family. We would like to give you some information and guidelines which we believe will help to prepare you for this experience. It is important to your homestay family that you enjoy your stay, but there are some rules which must be understood and followed. This will help you and your homestay hosts develop a good and lasting friendship.

- High School and Middle School placement are long term unless a change is deemed necessary by the Homestay Coordinator. College students must give notice minimum 30 days prior to the end of the month should they choose terminate the hosting arrangement. Homestay family notices to terminate the hosting arrangement must also be given 30 days prior to the end of the month.
- Homestay families have household rules. Please discuss these with your homestay provider shortly after your arrival.
- Spend some time having social contact with your homestay provider and their family. It will help you to improve your English and learn about the Canadian way of life.
- In Canada, women and men are equal. Women must be given the same respect as men.
- Some families feel it is not polite to help yourself to food from the refrigerator or pantry. Please discuss this with your homestay family.
- Always let your homestay family know in advance if you will not be home for a meal.
- Homestay families are required to provide food. However, it would be reasonable to expect you to make your own breakfast and lunch from the food available.
- Reasonable curfews, appropriate to your age, will be set and you must respect the determined curfew hours.
- As you will be part of a household, you should assist, or offer to assist in household chores. It is your responsibility to keep your bedroom neat and tidy.

- Ask your homestay family in advance if you can have friends come to visit you. You may like to have your friend stay the night. You must have permission from your homestay family before you make any such arrangements.
- If the homestay family that you are living with has a child, you are not obliged to look after them, but feel free to contribute.
- Remember to keep your passport and other important documents in a safe and secure place.
- Please check with your homestay family about any other rules which they would like to discuss with you, issues such as **Internet** access and using the **phone**.
- In making international calls, please ensure they are collect or that you use an international phone card.
- Please be courteous in your usage of the telephone. Instruct friends and family to avoid phoning during unusual hours. Students are discouraged from using the telephone after 10 pm except for emergency reasons. Student should not spend long periods of time on the telephone, as this interferes with necessary study time and opportunities to interact with the host family.
- Students are not permitted computer access in their bedrooms.
- Students are expected to pay for their own toiletries and bus fares. If the students are invited to participate in family holidays and/or travel where costs are incurred, they are expected to assist bearing the costs. When students choose not to participate in the activity, they must accept alternative arrangements made by the homestay parent or Homestay Coordinator.
- Students should complete all homework assignments and are expected to spend a reasonable amount of time each day doing homework. International students are expected to attend all classes on every school day, unless too ill to attend. Homestay parents will not excuse students who do not have a valid reason to miss school. High School and Middle School students who have 4 unverified absences must meet with the International Services office. At this time their case will be reviewed and the student may be subject to removal from the program.
- Immigration Canada does not permit High School and Middle School students to hold employment.
- The use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited and may result in the student being sent home. In Canada it is illegal for people under 18 years of age to purchase cigarettes and illegal for people under 18 years old to purchase and consume alcohol. Students who commit an illegal activity resulting in criminal charges will be removed from the program immediately.
- High School and Middle School students are strongly discouraged from having boyfriend/girlfriend relationships.

- Under no circumstances are High School students permitted to attend Safe Grad celebrations but are encouraged to attend official graduation ceremonies. Only international students in grade 12 or of grade 12 age may attend Dry Grad celebrations.
- High School and Middle School students are only permitted to travel outside of Red Deer with their homestay family, and another homestay that has been approved by the Homestay Coordinator. For all other travel requests written permission must be given by the student's natural parents. It is the student's responsibility to take the necessary steps to contact their natural parents. The arrangements must also meet the approval of the Homestay Coordinator and Homestay family.
- Homestay families are responsible for meeting their student at the airport and returning them to the airport on their final departure. Students and homestay families are encouraged to explore, with the assistance of the Homestay Coordinator, pickup and dropoff strategies should the school calendar dictate that students arrive or departs mid-week. Students who choose to terminate the program or are removed from the program are responsible for paying their transportation costs to the airport. Students who choose to arrive mid-week may be responsible for the costs of transportation from the airport to their host family (approx. \$190 Cdn.).
- Students are not responsible for normal wear and tear to homestay property. However, students will be held responsible for the costs of any damage to homestay property or possessions caused by negligent or disrespectful behaviour.
- Students must be available to meet with the Homestay Coordinator monthly.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Homestay Coordinator:

Sabrina Gray and Roberta Ward
Homestay Coordinators

403-754-5562 Ext 2038
403-754-5562 Ext 2035

homestay@rdpsd.ab.ca



SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Canadians like to be on time for appointments. Please respect this when you are going somewhere.

If you have been delayed and will not make it home at the expected time, you must call your homestay family. Sometimes lateness can affect the whole family. Lateness is inconsiderate and rude.

Your homestay family is not here to cater to you. They will gladly help you, but you must let them know in advance so they can adjust scheduling.

Keep yourself busy physically, as well as academically.

You may find Canadian food different and you may need time to adjust. Smaller portions and samplings of food will allow you to become accustomed to these changes. A simple, “no, thank you,” is all that is required to decline a specific food item. However, do not expect the homestay family to prepare food other than at meal times. Homestay families receive a moderate amount to cover the costs of your food, please eat moderate portions and do not throw food away.

Try to always leave your personal items in your room. Always clean up after yourself, keeping your area tidy.

Canadians place a great deal of importance on hygiene. You should be showering and brushing your teeth daily. Body odours are considered unpleasant and offensive.

Canadian winters can be very extreme. Include plenty of fruit and vegetables in your diet to stay healthy and help avoid illness. Keep regular sleeping hours.

Your grades are very important. School should not be missed unless you are very ill.

Should you experience any difficulty at school, your teachers, school councillors and your principal will always be available to support you. If a matter is not dealt with at school the International Services office will be available to provide you with academic assistance.

This may be a once in a life time opportunity. Cherish your experiences with your new family. Make the most of your new adventure. Take every change you can to try something new – food, cultural events and sports activities that you may never be able to experience in your own country.

“Things always turn out best for those who make the best of how things turn out.”

Author Unknown