

VIA Homestay Handbook

International Homestay Program Family Handbook

Your Counselor: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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Mission Statement

Venture International Academy was founded on the premise of excellence and quality. Our purpose is to provide a quality personalized education for each student that comes to our program. We believe that each student has the potential to succeed and we want to help encourage and facilitate that success.

Venture International Academy provides educational services that broaden not only their intellectual mind but helps create a greater knowledge and understanding of the world and the cultures within it.

We strive to assist each of our students in maximizing their own potential by providing schools that provide individualized instruction, tutoring and special programs that allow each student to prepare themselves for their venture into the world to succeed.

Introduction

Congratulations on choosing to participate as an international homestay student at one of our homestay schools! I hope that your time at your American School is full of strong relationships and memorable experiences that you will carry with you for the rest of your lives. We at Venture International Academy believe that your time at one of our schools is one step toward your future.

Many of our Christian schools seek to provide a biblically-based educational experience for all their students. It is their desire that all students will encounter and grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Your Christian school seeks to respect the God of the Bible and grow in love for Him through every action every day.

Guidelines that encourage student's responsibility in order to maintain an atmosphere of support, cooperation, mutual respect, and personal integrity are necessary in all our International Homestay School Programs. The guidelines in this homestay student handbook are not intended to restrict students. These guidelines help to set appropriate boundaries within which students have freedom to develop fully and are adhered to by all our homestay schools.

Homestay students must know and follow guideline in this *International Homestay Program Student Handbook* as well as your schools student and family's handbook, which contain guidelines applicable to all students and families at your participating school. This handbook was developed to help you succeed as an international homestay student at any of our schools. It will address issues that may arise during your time here and will give you some practical tips for your entire journey from beginning to end. We hope that your experience at your private school is as life-changing as we desire for every student in our program.

Sincerely,

Dian Joy
CEO President

Goals of a Homestay Family

The primary goal of all homestay families is to provide a home environment for international students that will support their schools mission and as many of our schools are Christian the student will be enriched through a Christ-centered, loving and supportive family.

All our schools seeks to accept international students from around the world and a variety of cultures. However, as you will see many of our schools primary international students are primarily from China. Most of our international students who come from China are mainly her for the purpose of improving their English skills and with a goal of gaining admittance into a United States university of college. We have found that the best way for students to attain this objective is through immersion in an English-speaking home environment as well as through daily study of academic disciplines in English. We have found that living with an American homestay family also enables our international student so gain firsthand knowledge of our culture. This responsibility does demand time and attention and should not be taken lightly. Before you take on this responsibility please ensure that your family and personal schedules will allow the time it will take to invest in the life of the student in order to meet these goals.

Please know that your international student may not be a Christian, but has chosen to participate in your school with the full awareness that he or she will be living with a Christian homestay family and studying in a Christian school. Your student also understands that he or she is expected to attend all church functions with your family if you so request. Please be mindful and respectful of our student's viewpoints as you have been raised in your Christian life. Many of our students may find that some of what we do within our churches may be foreign to them and cause them to be uncomfortable. Please make sure to discuss their concerns with them with an open mind and open heart. It is always our prayer that through this experience the student will share with your family, and that the Holy Spirit will guide to their spiritual path. However, it may still take many years before your student will come to fully grasp what it really means to become and live as a Christian.

We have found that many of our students agree with what their homestay families say so as not to offend you, but that may not reflect an actual understanding of what you are saying and expecting from him or her. The promotion of long term relationship built on trust where questions can be freely asked and answered without a sense of condemnation is very important in order to reach the heart of an international student who does not come from a Christian background. It is our desire that through your interaction as a homestay family with your international student, that his or her life will be changed forever by what they experience within your home.

Consider the following:

"A worldview change is needed, and to change worldview, you have to face culture's impact on you. You have to ask questions of your worldview and allow truth to go deeply in. If not, conversion will be shallow and won't be transformative." – Rev. Edwin Su

“Most people don’t understand how much time it takes for folks out of a totalitarian system to be deprogrammed from the old way of thinking before they can even be in the position to have categories in which to consider the Gospel.” – Dr. Peter Kuzmic

Language in the Home

We require all homestay families to speak English. Families who are not native to the United States and speak English as a second language may serve as homestay families, but English must be the primary language spoken in the home, and the English spoken in the home should be near-native fluency.

What Homestay Families Provide

Furnishings:

Homestay families must provide each student with a private bedroom. (Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Administration of the participating school). Our goal is to have only one student per homestay family, though exceptions to this may occur given the willingness of the homestay family and the approval Venture International Academy and your school. When this occurs, we will always attempt to mix nationalities of students to avoid having two students in the same home that speak the same language. Any exceptions to this must also be approved by the natural parents of the student.

The student’s bedroom furnishings must include: bed (excluding futons), dresser, closet, night table, and good lighting for study. A desk and chair in the student’s bedroom provide a quiet study area, but are not required in the student’s bedroom. However, a study area that offers a quiet work space must be provided elsewhere in the home. The student should also have access to all common areas of the home (kitchen, living room, family room etc.)

You must provide students with clean linens and towels once or twice per week, depending upon the exchange pattern in your home.

A bathroom may be private or shared with others in the home (If many members of the family are using a shared bathroom, it may be a good idea to post a schedule of grooming time/showers/baths etc.

Meals:

Students must receive breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the week, even if the student is paying for his or her own school lunches within your homestay program. On school days, please make sure appropriate provisions for lunch, just as you do for your own children is provided. Meals should be nourishing, fresh, of sufficient quantity, and the menu should be varied. Please ask your student about food preferences, dietary restrictions, and food allergies, and invite you student to accompany you to the grocery store or supermarket. Occasionally, you may want to consider inviting the student to help prepare a meal from his or her home country.

Breakfast

Some of our homestay families prepare breakfasts for their students. Some schools supply the breakfast. Breakfast can also be a self-help meal where our student prepares his or her own breakfast. If this is the case in your home, please direct your student to the appropriate cooking utensils and breakfast items, and instruct him or her in the use of any necessary appliances. A continental style breakfast may include juice, coffee or tea with milk, cold or hot cereal, and bread such as bagels or muffins with butter and jam or jelly. Sometimes families prepare full breakfasts with pancakes, bacon or ham, eggs etc. on the weekend when the pressure of getting to school and work on time is not a factor.

Lunch

Lunch must be provided for every day, both on school days and non-school days. If your student is taking lunch from home please make sure provisions for your student are provided as you would for your own children. At some of our schools breakfast and lunch are part of the homestay program fees. At other schools students must purchase their own school lunch at your school as part of the homestay program. It is the responsibility of the homestay family to make sure that their student has the appropriate provisions for lunches.

Snacks

Your student is responsible for purchasing any snacks that are for personal use and not for the family's consumption. Please provide adequate storage and refrigerator space for these items for your student.

Dinner

Dinner is a time when students should value practicing their English in conversation about the day's activities. It is a great time to get to know your student better and build a trusting relationship through conversation. Please make sure it is a priority to have dinner as a family at least four to five times per week. Current events are popular topics for dinner time conversations. On rare occasions when you will not be at home for dinner, please provide instructions for your student on how to prepare dinner. Additionally, please explain to your student that he or she is required to let you know if something in his or her schedule will cause him or her to be late or miss dinner, and that the more advanced notice he or she can give, the better it will be for you and your family.

Your students may be shy and tend to eat quickly in order to return to his or her room for studying. Many of our international students are under pressure to excel academically, which may influence them to try to limit time spent with you at meals. Please do not be offended if this occurs.

The cost for homestay required meals is covered through the monthly compensation package. Please provide meals that are reasonable in size. If the student is consuming more than seems reasonable or affordable, please contact your local guardian or Venture International Academy so we can discuss your options.

Transportation:

Students are assigned homestay families located in safe and respectable areas. Homestay families are expected to provide safe transportation to and from the school each day, unless there is local transportation or your school provides transportation. The travel time from the home to school can average no more than 20-30 minutes each way, and the maximum allowable time each way is 45 minutes. Homestay students are not allowed to possess or drive a vehicle while in the homestay program. Homestay students may only ride in vehicles driven by any of your school's homestay parents, a student driver within your personal homestay home, or another school-approved driver.

Some homestay families may choose to bring their student to and from school in route to and from work. It is very important that students not arrive late for the start of school, please inquire at your school as to what your school's start time is. Additionally, please provide safe travel for your student to the grocery store or other venues deemed appropriate as well as for family outings, school and church functions.

Students who desire to pursue a Driver's License may do so only with the express written consent of their parents, homestay parents and the approval of the administration of the student's school. Students who are approved to pursue a Driver's License must make appropriate arrangements with their homestay parents to enroll in an approved driver training course. Any costs associated with driver training and pursuing a license are the responsibility of the student and their family.

Students are not allowed to drive outside of an approved driver training course. Students may not own or possess a personal vehicle while enrolled at any of our homestay schools. Students who have a license are required to surrender their license to the local guardian or administration of their school during all the years they participate within a homestay program.

Other:

It should go without saying that in addition to all the above, hospitality and friendship are the most important expectations of your family. We have found that treating your student as a member of your family and modeling your values will show your student the love of Christ you have.

Keys for a Successful Experience

Family Rules & Expectations

Your student's way of life within his or her home country is often very different from our average American lifestyle. Even those of us who live in the United States, there are many differences. As a family you need to discuss your family's rules and expectations as soon as the student is rested and comfortable from his or her travel.

Homestay families should have created a Family Covenant or Rules that is share with Venture International Academy as well as your schools administration. The Family Covenant or Rules is a document that defines the expectations for living life on a daily basis in your family's structure. Please make sure to provide a copy of this document as a family and ask each family member to sign this covenant or rules, agreeing to live by this as a family.

Show the student how to use appliances such as the washing machine, dryer, microwave oven, toaster, TV, DVD player etc. Make sure your student is aware of any restrictions regarding the use of the appliances or any other restrictions in the home. Note whether your student really understands your instructions. If he or she does not understand, it may be wise to provide written instructions for each item. Be sure to discuss necessary subjects: meal times, breakfast instructions, telephone usage, computer restrictions, access to refrigerator, food/beverages not available to them (snacks etc.), laundry procedures and frequency, bed times, etc. Many of these items may need to be included in your family covenant or rules.

It should be noted that the Chinese government is more restrictive regarding what is allowable on television, in movies, and on the internet. If your student is Chinese, please carefully instruct him or her on how to safely consume American media in the same way you would instruct your own son or daughter. Otherwise, it is possible the student could quickly access destructive media and become addicted to it. (Pornographic or gambling internet sites).

Communication:

Please exercise caution with respect to how much your student understands you. You may find they your student will indicate that he or she understands you only to discover later that very little was actually understood. If your student fails to understand you, try rephrasing. Speak slowly and clearly, but resist the tendency to increase your volume when you struggle to be understood. It is initially very tiring for students to continuously hear and speak in English; however, encourage to speak In English even if their English speaking skills are poor.

Your school will not normally place two students from the same country into the same homestay family in order to maintain the integrity of speaking English ONLY. Learning English is one of the primary goals of the international homestay program. Therefore, it is imperative that the homestay environment facilitate this English language growth for the student.

Manners & Cultural Differences:

Please be tolerant of manners that differ from your standards. While some may seem to be unacceptable in our culture, they may be acceptable in your student's culture. Discuss these differences without being critical and let your student know which behaviors are unacceptable in your home and our culture. For example, some students may not say "please" and "thank you," as this is not done in their own homes/cultures, though appreciation may be shown in other ways. The more you and your student communicate, the more your student will learn what is acceptable and appropriate behavior in our culture. Doing this may teach you more about your student's culture!

Lifestyle & Activities:

Share your lifestyle with your student and make him or her part of your family to a great extent, but never fully. For example, never discuss personal or financial problems with your student. Arguments are a part of family life for every family, but please try your best to shield your student from these arguments and do not involve him or her. Instead, discuss things you enjoy such as music, sports, gardening, church etc. Find out what interests your student and ask about his or her family, friends, country, lifestyle and interests.

The more you communicate, the more you will learn from and about each other. This will also help provide a more relaxed atmosphere for your student in the home. Always inviting your student to participate in family activities or outings will assist them in learning about your family's lifestyle. Most students will want to interact with your family in this way to help improve their English skills. Expect your student to nap often after school. This is common in many countries, and your student may be tired after using English all day. You may find that your student may continue to nap daily during their entire time in the United States.

Household Duties & Chores:

Students may be expected, in their American families to help with the household chores that are also shared among the other family members. Families may assign students, as in the case with other family members, some simple and light household duties or chores. Students should be encouraged, if not required, to make their beds and keep their rooms neat and clean.

Students may be asked to help set the table for a meal and/ or help clear the table after the meals or help wash dishes. Some students are also asked to help with minor chores in the home (taking out the garbage, raking the leaves etc.). Students are to accept such expectations as being a part of the family. However, it is important that our homestay families understand that we do not desire that any of our students serve as maids, servants or housekeepers since their parents are paying for the homestay family experience.

Please do not expect babysitting responsibilities of your students. They may not have the communication skills for this task and may put your child at risk in the event of an emergency. Please

consider the degree of risk, responsibility, and communication when assigning chores. Please remember they are not hired babysitters, handymen, or nannies.

Access to the Home

Giving access to the home varies among families. Some families are comfortable giving the student a key to come and go as he or she wishes. Many other families may have children who are under curfew and may want their student to follow the same rules especially if their children are at a similar age.

Whichever is the case in your home, please explain your expectations to your student regarding acceptable times to be home at night as well as home security. It is appropriate to give the student an approximate time when he or she will need to be home each evening so that you will not worry. Your student should also provide you with phone numbers to call if changes occur.

Religion & Culture:

We request that you respect the religion and culture of your students. Your student should attend church services and functions with you on a weekly basis. If your family goes to church together. Students should not be required to accompany you to church every time the church doors are open.

You will find that the level of physical contact varies from culture to culture as well as within our own culture. If hugging and kissing are part of your family's lifestyle, please explain to your student that this is the way you show concern and caring but be perceptive about the student's reaction and do not push for reciprocal expressions.

Vacations, Trips & Emergencies:

Homestay families may wish to take vacations or weekend trips at various times. If you would like to invite your student with your family on such a trip, and it does not conflict with the student's school schedule, families are free to do so. If the student will be held responsible for any expenses, it is important that these expenses be explained at the time the trip is discussed with him or her. If an unexpected emergency arises that requires you to leave town, please contact the administration of your school, Venture International Academy or your local guardian, so we can assist in making arrangements to find a temporary homestay family if necessary.

Telephone Use:

Carefully explain your expectations for your student regarding the use of your family telephone. Speaking with them and writing your expectations down is a good idea to establish an acceptable length of time for telephone calls and, perhaps, the number of phone calls received or made daily. Also inform your student that use of your telephone is a privilege that is not to be abused. If you desire for your student to ask before using the phone, please make it clear from the beginning. Students should keep all telephone calls brief. If a family member needs to use the telephone, the student should give up the phone, especially if the family member must make an immediate phone call.

Any and all long distance phone calls must be made either "collect" or with a phone card. Do not allow your student to make long distance calls and charge them to your telephone. If you discover this has

occurred, please contact Venture International Academy, as we will discuss this matter with the student and seek proper resolution.

Also advise your student of the appropriate and inappropriate time to receive phone calls from friends and family in his or her country, especially since in many instances these are significant time differences. Your student must tell his or her family and friends back home to NOT call our home late at night with the family is sleeping unless there is an emergency that cannot wait until morning. Students may choose to have a personal cell phone at their own expense, but should not use this at inappropriate times such as above.

Technology Usage:

Please talk with your student about appropriate computer use in your home. If the student's study area is located in his or her bedroom, the computer screen should always be facing the door, and all technology devices should have a designated keeping place outside the bedroom for sleeping time. This serves two purposes: it limits the potential for inappropriate computer activity by eliminating long periods of isolation with access to the computer, and it encourages sleeping during the overnight hours when many of our students friends are awake and communicating in their home countries due to the time difference. Students are required to turn in all technology devices to the homestay parents at the prescribed family bedtime (as written in the family Covenant or family rules) or 11:00 p.m. (whichever is earlier). Students may occasionally request permission from the homestay parents for a late night with technology for academic purposes ONLY. Homestay parents reserve the right to grant or deny such a privilege as they see fit.

Student are required to connect through the homestay family's internet (wifi) connection ONLY when accessing the internet. Students are not allowed to connect to the internet through any other means (3G, mifi, etc.) while in your home. Homestay parents reserve the right to determine appropriate study areas and areas where technology devices are on or off-limits to the student, just as they do their own children. Many homestay parents reserve the right to monitor all computer activity through the use of internet filters or other filtering programs as outlined in the Family Covenant or family rules. Homestay parents should closely monitor internet and other technology usage.

Please be aware that in many of our student cultures some vices (gambling, pornography) are not considered vices in the same way that we do here in the American culture, but are considered to be a normal part of growing up, or in some cases a characteristic of reaching maturity. It is very important that you clearly communicate that standards in your home to your students in this area and remain faithful and diligent in upholding these standards.

Harassment:

Venture International Academy's homestay program protects the right of every student to have an environment that respects human dignity. Harassment and / or abuse of students are contrary to many of our schools biblical principles, morally wrong, and illegal. The homestay program expressly forbids sexual harassment (opposite or same sex) and any threatening/offensive conduct or expressions with respect to gender, race, color, national origin, or age.

Harassment can include a pattern of remarks, gestures, jokes, physical contact, teasing, excessive attention, bullying (including cyber bullying), and / or picture or written material that a person would personally find threatening, derogatory, offensive, or unwanted. Sometimes individuals responsible for these actions may not know that they are offensive. If evidence of harassment in the homestay environment is found the student will be immediately removed from the home and the proper authorities will be notified.

Medical Expenses and Insurance

Our homestay families are not responsible for medical expenses if your student becomes ill or is injured.

Some of our participating schools have their own insurance for our students. If your school is providing the insurance for your student, you will be notified and the school will make sure you are made aware of what to do.

However Venture International Academy supplies an excellent medical insurance. The insurance coverage extends through the entire school year. If any student plans to remain in the United States during the summer, medical insurance coverage must be extended at an additional cost to the student.

The medical insurance provided by Venture International Academy offers excellent coverage of most physicians' visits and other accident or sickness medical expenses. Prior to going to the physician or medical facility your homestay family will call 1-888-551-9798 and let your insurance office know of your illness or medical problem. This office will give your homestay parents a claim number to reference for each medical situation they call in, that can be referenced on the claim forms your homestay families have been provided. This office will let your homestay family know of the doctors and medical facilities in your area that accept your insurance.

Your homestay parents will know to take a copy of your claim form, making sure that you have signed the form on the highlighter area. The facility or Doctor's office can submit the claim for payment. If you are required to pay up front for the visit, then your homestay parents will assist you in keeping all the original receipts to submit with the claim form and payment will be refunded to you or the person stated on the form for reimbursement

MEDICATION: If medication is ordered by the doctor or medical facility please first ask your doctor for samples as these are FREE. If more medication is necessary, then you will be responsible to purchase the medication and submit a claim with all the original paperwork with the claim number referenced on the claim form. The individual noted on the claim for will be reimbursed for medication payments made.

EMERGENCY SERVICE: NO deductible is required when going to an Emergency room if this is a true emergency and not just for a cold or flu. If it is deemed **NOT** an emergency then there will be a \$250 deductible that the insurance company will charge the student and his family will be responsible to pay.

Compensation:

You will receive a monthly stipend for hosting your student(s). This payment will be issued on the first of each month beginning the first month the student participates at your local private school, and ends the end of the month at the end of the school year. The payment will be the same each month for all ten months. This stipend is to cover all expenses incurred as a result of hosting your student, including transportation, meals, room and board, etc.

If for some unexpected reason the student withdraws from your school during the course of the school year, the final month's stipend may be prorated to reflect the student's departure date. Compensation is not extend beyond the student's withdrawal date from your participating school, from the first day – the last day of the school year, you stipend will be mailed to you the first of each month as long as the student is enrolled at your participating school and the student resides within your home.

Handling Homestay Family-Related Issues

You should extend discipline to your student according to your families covenant or family rules. With rare exceptions, you should deal directly and gently with the student as your first recourse. Everyone hates to hear about our faults from a third party without first hearing it from the one we have offended. Conversely, we will do all we can to encourage your student to not complain to his or her parents about issues with the homestay family without first trying to resolve these issues face-to-face.

If you have tried the above and still have unresolved issues, please contact your local guardian or Venture International Academy. The next step will be for us to discuss this with the homestay family and the student as well as any administrative staff of the participating school.

Encourage your student to be direct and honest with you if he or she is angry, hurt, disappointed, confused, etc. A student may complain to his or her parents back home, the parents then complain to the student's agent, and the agent will contact us, and then hears the "other side of the story" from the homestay family. This tendency of a student avoiding direct contact with the homestay family is an exceedingly difficult habit to break, but do not give up trying.

Interpersonal conflicts can usually be resolved if handled in an open and caring way at the homestay family level. Please treat your students the same way, you would treat your own children. Unresolved problems only tend to grow larger with time, so do not delay in contacting your local guardian, or Venture International Academy or your local administration if resolution is not occurring in an individual situation with our student. Also, do not hesitate to be interested and appropriately involved in the academic work and extracurricular involvement of your student, but allow Venture International Academy, the school faculty, and coaches to handle all major academic and school-related extracurricular problems.

Progress Reports and Evaluations

Venture International Academy will regularly evaluate the homestay families and our international students. You will be asked to submit monthly progress reports via email to Venture International Academy, who will forward to the students agent, and biological parents. Progress Reports are designed to take no more than ten minutes to write each month unless, of course, major problems arise. These emails should be sent to Venture International Academy by the last day of every month. In these monthly emails, please include as much of the information listed below as is practical and pertinent.

1. The student's adjustment to American life
2. Adjustment to their school
3. Adjustment to American food
4. Study habits
5. Amount of time spent on phone or internet
6. Going to bed at a reasonable time
7. Progress in English
8. Positive character qualities you observe in the student
9. Areas where the student needs to show improvement
10. Progress in the student being forthright with you in many areas
11. Amount of time spent with of students from their country rather than American friends
12. Seriousness of purpose in looking ahead to universities of interest to them
13. Evidence of home-sickness
14. News about the homestay family (anything that may be of interest)

These monthly progress reports are narrative in nature. There is no form that they must be completed and submitted. Please send these as normal emails to the following

Dian Joy: djoy.ventureacademy@yahoo.com

The biological parents: Email will be provided by Venture International Academy

In addition to the monthly progress report, Venture International Academy will conduct annual evaluations of all homestay families near the end of the school year. At that time Venture International Academy will interview by survey each homestay family and international student who participated in the International Homestay Program. It is our goal to use this information to help the homestay family evaluate their participation in the program and identify changes that should be made by the family, student, or Venture International Academy. If problems arise throughout the year and require immediate attention, Venture International Academy and participating schools reserve the right to evaluate the homestay family situation and initiate necessary changes.

Summer Months & Holidays

Most homestay students return home for the summer months, and some will return home for longer school holidays. Homestay families are responsible for the care of their student upon the student's arrival until the student's departure at the end of the school year, even during school holidays and breaks. There is no increase in the monthly stipend for hosting over school holidays during the school year. All student travel must be approved according to the procedures outlined in the *Homestay or Student Handbook*.

During the summer, several of our schools host a Summer English Academy. Many of our new incoming students who are either required to or choose to remain for all or a portion of the summer to attend these programs will be housed by the participating homestay schools program and housed by the local homestay families. Summer hosting at many of our schools will be made by the participating school before the end of the school year. Homestay families who would like a break from hosting during the summer months should notify your schools administrative staff or Venture International Academy no later than March 1 of each school year. Some of our participating schools will be responsible for finding appropriate housing arrangements for students who remain over or come into the summer program. Homestay families who do host during the summer months will receive additional stipends at a prorated amount according to the student's time in their home.

Summary of Homestay Family Experience

It is our hope here at Venture International Academy that this handbook will provide you with the necessary information to make your participation at your school and within this homestay program successful and rewarding. It is our desire that your experience as a homestay family can be summarized as follows:

“The student is here to learn about American family life from the insider's point of view, but although an inside learner, the student remains essentially an outsider to long-standing family ties, the family's shared history, and the special sense of loyalty felt exclusively by family members. As a learner and a friend, the student participates in the family's normal day-to-day activities. Through discussions, the student learns about the family's values, beliefs, outlook and historical roots. Over time and with continued involvement, the student usually develops a strong relationship with family members, a relationship of deep caring and high mutual regard. Through involvement with the family, the school and the community, the student builds a foundation for understanding the culture of the U.S.

There appear to be two basic dimensions to being a host family for an international student:

1. Sharing your lifestyle with a person from another country
2. Providing a helping hand”

(King & Huff, 1997)

We at Venture International Academy hope that you will open your home and hearts to a student who wants to get to know your family, learn English, and learn about our culture. We only ask that you be loving and caring, but to also remember that you are not “preparing the road for the child, but you are

preparing the child for the road.” All things being equal, it is better to come across with firmness at the onset and move toward flexibility than it is to experience the opposite because your student has over taken “the mile “when you thought you were only giving “an inch.”

Resources

Southside Christian School

2211 Woodruff Road

Simpsonville, SC 29681

Web: www.southsidechristian.org

Agape English Language Institute

610 Pickens Street

Post Office Box 12504

Columbia, SC 29211-2504

Web: www.aeliusa.com

Ben Lippen School

7401 Monticello Road

Post Office Box 3999

Columbia, SC 29203-3999

Web: www.benlippen.com

King, N, & Huff, K (1997). *Host Family survival kit. A guide for American host families.* Nicholas Publishing

VIA. Travel Release form

We understand that our students want to travel while in the US, please know that we do allow our students to Travel, but they must be accompanied with an adult 25 years or older. (Host families, School Officials are the exception). Travel requests must be submitted to the VIA office a minimum of **(4) four weeks** prior to the requested departure date. Please read and complete this entire form. All necessary signatures must be included for the travel request to be considered. If the travel requested involves traveling without the host family or Guardian, a letter must be included from the student's natural parent(s) authorizing this specific trip. In addition, Name, age and address with contact phone number of chaperone will be required to confirm responsibility for the student during this specific trip.

Student(s) Name _____

Date Request Submitted _____

Requested Travel Dates _____

Reason for Travel

Mode of Travel

Destination

Address and Phone Number(s) at Destination(s). (Include dates if more than one destination.)

Name, age, address, phone number of chaperone

Flight information if student is traveling by air: Van service may be needed.

Name of School: _____

Principal of Schools Signature _____

Date _____

To The Host Parents: *I understand that any travel (aside from host family vacations during school breaks) for VIA students must be approved in advance. I am in agreement with the above travel request and understand that Venture is not responsible for any financial losses incurred if travel arrangements are made prior to approval from the school or VIA.*

Host Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Natural Parents Signature _____ **Date** _____

VIA Office Signature _____ **Date** _____

