

Host Family Agreement Skagit Valley College

In agreeing to be a Host family for the Skagit Valley College Homestay Program, I (we) agree to be part of this program where each host will:

1. Provide a clean, safe and caring home environment with a **private bedroom** including bed and bedding; linens and towels; a desk and a chair; study lamp; adequate storage; lighting and heat; a fire exit and nearby smoke alarm. This room should be available during the student's entire stay and must not be made available to out of town visitors or guests.
2. Provide a well-balanced variety of nutritional **food for breakfast, lunch and dinner**, seven days a week for 'Traditional Homestay' students. This should include 4-5 prepared evening meals per week, to be served at a time that is convenient to the host, with food available for student preparation for the remainder of the meals. The host should also allow student input into the grocery list, and teach them how to use kitchen appliances. For 'Room & Kitchen Access' students, the host will provide access to the kitchen for food preparation, as well as refrigerator and cabinet storage space for student food.
3. **Welcome** the student to their home. Spend time orienting them to all aspects of living there, and allow extra time to bond with the newly arrived student.
4. Assist the student in learning how to make **long distance phone calls** using a calling card, or setting up a personal phone line. If students require on-line access for Internet use, they should set up a personal phone line at their own expense.
5. Include the student in the host's **daily life** as desired by the student, including: running errands, kids' sporting events, weekend movies or shopping, family holidays and simple household chores.
6. **Speak English at home when the student is present.** One of the reasons students choose Homestay is to improve their English speaking skills. While we respect and value multiple languages spoken in a home, international students would not have the desired English immersion living experience if the host family conversation is in a language other than English. In addition, the student could feel uncomfortable at being left out of conversations that were not in English or their native tongue.
7. Teach the student to **ride the bus** if applicable, and help them to become acclimated to the local area.
8. Assist the student with **medical needs**. All students will have medical insurance, and they should be referred to SVC's Student Services office should they have questions regarding their coverage. For emergencies, dial 911 or take them to the emergency room.
9. Agree to **work out any differences** with the student(s) to the best of our ability. A second recourse will be to contact the Housing Coordinator to intervene and act as a mediator, although it is understood that the Coordinator is under no obligation or liability to settle disputes.
10. Adhere to the SVC guidelines regarding the **monthly stipend rate, cleaning fee and damage deposit**. These fees are fixed and non-negotiable. The monthly stipend covers room, food (if included), utilities, mileage, cost of normal family activities and host's time. Understand that all **utilities** except the student's long distance phone bills or personal

phone line are the responsibility of the host. It is further understood that hosts should not depend on Homestay stipends to meet ongoing financial obligations.

11. Adhere to the SVC guidelines for **vacation rates** for students.
12. **Respect the student's religious beliefs**, and not proselytize. While it is perfectly acceptable to practice the host's religion in the home, such as saying prayers at the dinner table, student's personal belief systems should be respected. Students may be *invited* to join the family in religious activities, but not *expected* to participate.
13. **Provide instruction on emergency procedures** in the case of injuries, fire, earthquakes and other emergencies.
14. **Never allow the student to baby-sit children.**
15. Agree to notify the Homestay Coordinator of **any changes in the Homestay situation**, to include: persistent problems with a student; plans for the host to be out of town for an extended period; changes in the home, such as family members moving in or out, pets, divorce, career changes, etc.; when the student gives notice and plans to move out; updates on address, phone and/or e-mail addresses; etc.
16. Understand that **Skagit Valley College reserves the right to remove a student** from the host's home at its discretion and request a prorated refund of the Homestay stipend.
17. Agree not to have or use any **illegal substances** in the home while students are living there, and see that moderation is used when consuming alcohol around students in the home.
18. Agree to not host any **student outside of the Homestay Program** while currently hosting a student placed by the SVC Homestay Coordinator *without prior discussion* with the Coordinator. (Students are placed under strict guidelines of nationality and number requirements.)
19. Waive my right to privacy under the Washington State Privacy Act in so far as SVC may reveal my address and telephone number for student's business purposes only. (Agencies, doctors, hospitals, etc.)
20. Consent to a criminal background check made by any local, state, or federal agency. Hosts specifically consent to a background check on behalf on themselves and all household members.
21. Agree to indemnify and hold harmless SVC and/or its agents, employees, or officers from any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorneys' fees arising out of, connected with, or resulting from having a student live in the host's home. I realize I am an independent contractor.

I (we) have read and understand the above agreement. I agree to fulfill the requirements outlined above to the best of my ability. If at any time I am unable to fulfill the obligation, I agree to notify the SVC Homestay Coordinator immediately. SVC reserves the right to terminate this agreement if the requirements are not being met, and if negotiations are not successful in resolving issues.

Host Name (printed)

Host Signature

Date

Host Name (printed)

Host Signature

Date