



International Student Hosting at Phil-Mont Christian Academy

Thank you for your desire to host an international student attending Phil-Mont Christian Academy. Please read through the following recommendations and guidelines and sign on the last page.

Introduction

- **Contact the International Student Coordinator with any questions:
Lilan Geating, 215-233-0782 Ext. 410**
- Welcome the foreign student into your home as a member of the family.
- Unless working with an agency, you will be considered the student's guardian while they are studying at Phil-Mont.

Insurance

Students are required to have medical insurance for medical and dental emergencies. Only International Student Parents or Guardians are responsible for this coverage. Non-guardian host families should not pay any medical or dental bills. The student's insurance card or information sheet will have the appropriate information for reimbursement. The Host Family should request a copy of medical insurance card from the student's guardian/agency.

Fees

Hosting is not a money-making program, but often can help offset some of a family's expenses. **This fee covers cost of room, board, transportation, utilities, and all meals. Hosts will not charge students for any additional costs accept school uniforms.** Consult your tax advisor prior to becoming a host to determine if the payment will be considered taxable income. These payments are made by the biological family or the agency involved. Payments should be made August through June, but may be prorated for the first and last month to correspond with the number of weeks actually used.

Host Family Expectations

Students should be welcomed as a family member and treated with the same amount of respect and compassion that you would give your own child. Students should also be expected to follow family rules and assist with household chores just as your own child might. Students should not be expected to act as babysitters or housecleaners.

The family should familiarize the student with their house rules: e.g., when dinner is served; what the rules are for "helping oneself" to food; how laundry is handled; what

time curfew is; etc. Please do not treat students like a guest. Try to treat them as a family member as soon as possible. This will help to avoid being taken advantage of by the student or that the home is being used as a "hotel." We recommend you write down all house rules along with the student during the first week of arrival. Do not expect students to learn by observing the family's children. It is important that all expectations are written down and posted somewhere to serve as a reminder.

The family must provide a private and quiet study space for their student to complete their homework (preferably in their own bedroom). It may be necessary and helpful for you to sit with your student and help them with homework. We recommend you try to keep track of your student's grades and assignments.

The family must provide three meals per day, including a sack lunch on school days. If the student wishes to buy lunch at school, he/she is responsible for paying for lunch. The family and Phil-Mont will ensure that the student has transportation to and from school.

It will be helpful to the student's progress to show interest in English conversation and ask questions about their progress at school. This will benefit their adjustment to life in their new community. Remember to keep asking them if they need or want anything. They will feel it is disrespectful for them to accept or ask for anything at first. Do not give up, keep asking; and pretty soon, they will realize it is okay to ask for things in your home because it is their home too.

Money

Your student will have their own spending money. We recommend that students arrive with a credit/debit card or set up their own bank account when they arrive. They should not share their bank account with anyone else. Students and host families should not borrow money from each other. Please do not include students on your insurance or cell phone plans. Money misunderstandings can create distrust in student/host family relationships. The student is responsible for all personal expenses including:

- Travel and Excursions: Any cost associated with personal travel activities.
- Personal Items: Toothpaste, shampoo, makeup, deodorant, etc.
- Clothing: All clothing including winter jackets, school uniforms.
- School expenses: Including books/fees, yearbooks, sports and special events.
- Phone calls: Long distance telephone calls.
- Miscellaneous: Stamps, various school fees.
- Entertainment: Movies, snacks, sports events, restaurants, ETC events, etc.

Guns

Guns must not be displayed to the students and should be SECURELY LOCKED AWAY at all times. Phil-Mont's International students are not allowed to participate in any hunting or gun related events or excursions due to liability purposes. Paintball is not covered by the insurance and is also forbidden.

Driving

Students may not obtain a driver's license while attending Phil-Mont.

Property

Host families should not lend students jewelry or other items of value, in case of loss or damage.

Illegal Substances

Phil-Mont students may not buy, possess or use tobacco products on school grounds while attending Phil-Mont (even if they are of legal age). Using tobacco, drugs, or alcohol can result in expulsion.

Travel

Phil-Mont believes that the experience of living with an American family and attending an American high school is a valuable one for both student and family. Host families are not expected to take students touring, but may do so. **All student travel requests must be preapproved by the school international committee and the guardians/parents.**

Gifts

The family should be gracious in receiving gifts from the student's families, but it is not necessary for you to feel obligated to give gifts. Giving gifts for birthdays and holidays is acceptable, but families should not feel pressured to give elaborate or expensive presents.

Family Participation

Host families are encouraged to participate in school activities with their student. If students are involved in extracurricular activities, please encourage them. Making contact with other host families is a great way to find help and friends for students. A roster of all host families is available from Phil-Mont.

Private Room

Please provide a comfortable bed with linens, a closet or dresser, lighting, a window, a desk with a lamp, and a private closet. All rooms must have a door for privacy. Host shall provide basic toiletries such as soap, towels, toilet paper, and laundry detergent.

Assist student upon arrival

Please help your student become acquainted with your home (i.e., bathroom, bedroom, laundry, kitchen, safety issues, and especially the scheduled BUS ROUTE).

Internet Service/Cell Phones

Students require internet access. The host home must have internet accessibility since this will be the primary way that the student will communicate with his/her family. It is strongly recommended that you establish a shut off time for the internet (ei. 11pm or midnight). Without this "end time" in place, many international students will stay up late and not get the sufficient sleep time they need for school. The monthly host family payment includes internet access. Students will have their own cell phones; do not add them to your cell phone plans.

Rules

Please review your family rules with the student as soon as he/she moves in. It is a good idea to write your rules down and discuss them often and thoroughly as their English proficiency increases. In the beginning, the student may not understand and may be embarrassed to ask questions. Use written and verbal reminders.

Transportation

The School District in which you live must provide transportation to and from your community for any student living with you. Sometimes this may require you to make a trip to the township administration building, but that is not typical. Phil-Mont will submit your information to the school district once the student is enrolled

Length of Stay

Students are asked to remain at least one school year with their host family. The living arrangements are reviewed at the end of each school year. **Students are not allowed to move to a new host family without notifying Phil-Mont.**

Meals

Food is included in the monthly fee. Please provide nutritious meals. Expose the student to American culture through food, but remember that they will likely want some familiar dishes. There are a variety of ethnic markets in our area. Please take the student and allow him/her to choose some familiar snacks to have at home. This is included in the monthly fee. Be open to trying some of their native dishes.

Conversation

Please spend time with your student to help them improve their English. If your family speaks another language, please make sure to speak English when student is present.

Family Activities

Include the student in your family activities. Take the student with you to your favorite restaurants, visit family members, and celebrate special events. This will enhance the student's understanding of American culture.

Vacations/Summer Break

The students must leave prior to June 30th and return at least 3 days before school starts in the fall. If working with an agency you will need to coordinate travel to and from the airport for your student.

Having students from non-Christian families gives every host family a "ministry opportunity." You are a missionary in your own home. Remember that your actions will speak louder than words. Allow your student to see you living out your faith. Help with Bible homework, answer questions, and openly discuss your religious beliefs.

We expect our host families to make sure their students are attending a Bible teaching church on a regular basis.

HOST PARENT SIGNATURES

1. We agree to follow the guidelines (mentioned in this document) for hosting international students from Phil-Mont Christian Academy.
2. We agree to pray for our students and take them to church regularly.
3. We agree to take guardianship responsibility while the students reside with us in our home.

International Student(s):

Host Parent(s):

Print _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print _____ Signature _____ Date _____



Phil-Mont Christian Academy
35 Hillcrest Ave.
Erdenheim, Pa 19038
215-233-0782
phil-mont.com