

HOMESTAY GUIDELINES

FOR HOSTS & STUDENTS



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PURPOSE OF SCHS HOMESTAY PROGRAM

The goal of the Steinbach Christian High School Homestay Program is to provide a safe, supportive, English-speaking, Christian family environment for international students attending SCHS.

An excellent Homestay environment allows students to improve their English skills in a positive, family environment. It also gives students an opportunity to learn about Canadian culture and traditions. It is our sincere hope that participation in the SCHS Homestay Program will be a rich and rewarding experience for both students and their host families.

It is our intention that SCHS's Homestay Guidelines will encourage excellent communication and understanding between the students and host families registered with the Program. If you have any questions regarding any of these guidelines, please contact our principal for clarification.

Upon signing the appropriate agreement, please return it to the school. A copy will be made and returned to you for your files.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Host families may be varied in number and ages of parents, and number and ages of children. In every case, every effort will be made to provide the best situation for the student.
2. If a difficulty arises between the student and the host family, the Principal should be notified immediately.
3. If the student is 18 years of age or older, they shall sign a release form allowing the school to communicate with the host parents with regard to school matters.
4. The student shall respect and follow the host family's rules in their home.
5. The student is expected to take part in the host family's daily and weekly activities, including church attendance.
6. The student shall participate in some general chores shared by the family. This will include keeping his/her room clean, vacuuming their room and emptying the garbage can at least once a week. Perishable food items should not be kept in the bedroom.
7. The student must make sure the host family knows where he or she is **at all times**. For example, if the student plans to spend a night at a friend's house, the host family must be given the name, address and phone number of the friend's parents.
8. The student will be home for the evening meal with the host family each night unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon.
9. The student will be in the house by 10:00 pm on school nights, 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Times may be extended only with the consent of the host parents.
10. The student shall invite guests to the home only with the permission of the host parents.
11. The student will respect the privacy and belongings of the host family.
12. Students, not host parents, are responsible for all personal long distance phone call charges. Long distance calls should not be made without permission from the host parents.
13. Host parents may make their own decision about allowing the student to drive their vehicle. Be sure to investigate insurance coverage.
14. The student will be treated more like a family member than a guest.
15. The duration of the home stay is from the start of school in fall to the completion of the school year in June. Any extension of this time must be negotiated with the host family apart from the School.

HOST FAMILY HOMESTAY AGREEMENT

1. The host family will provide a room with a separate bed for each student, adequate space for storage of personal belongings and a study area.
2. SCHS will provide lunches to the student from the school's Food Services Department every regular school day. The host family will provide the student with all other daily meals.
3. The host family is required to arrange for transportation of the student to and from SCHS, if not within comfortable walking distance. Transportation to different events and for various reasons should be provided by the host parents as long as this occurs on a reasonable frequency.
4. The host family is not required to pay for other costs such as entertainment for the student if the student wishes to be involved in the family activities.
5. The host family will not hold the employees and Board of SCHS responsible for any inconvenience or property damage, or physical harm incurred and received by the student.
6. The host family will not be held responsible for loss of property or physical harm incurred except in the case where Canadian law has been breached.
7. The host family will be provided with a Medical Release form, signed by the student's parents. This enables the host family to make decisions regarding the health and welfare of the student in an emergency. This form should be kept in a convenient location and shown to any medical personnel in any case of medical treatment. All SCHS students must carry accident insurance. In addition, international students must carry private health insurance.
8. If the host family wishes to terminate the Homestay before the agreed time, it should be on reasonable grounds, and must allow SCHS at least one month to find a new home for the student.
9. If the student terminates the Homestay, the host family will receive advance notice of one month. If less than one month, they will be compensated for the remaining portion of the month of termination unless it is obvious that the host family is in breach of agreement.
10. The host family must notify the SCHS Principal of any unusual incidents as soon as possible.
11. If the host family is in violation of this agreement, this contract between SCHS and the host may be terminated immediately and payment that has been made to the host family beyond the termination date must be refunded to SCHS.
12. Financial considerations of \$300 per month will be made from SCHS to the host family to help compensate for time and effort spent in providing a home for the student.
13. Hosts must inform SCHS of all residents and pets in the household. Please notify the SCHS Principal of all changes to the household.

Date

Host Family Signature

STUDENT HOMESTAY AGREEMENT

1. Students will be provided with a room with a separate bed for each student, adequate space for storage of personal belongings and a study area.
2. Lunches will be provided on school days in the SCHS cafeteria. All other meals will be provided by the host family. Students are expected to eat with the host family unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon.
3. Students are expected to conform to the normal rules of host family's life and to contribute to the routine operation of the household. For example, expectations of the host family regarding permission to use the telephone, television, or other daily routines should be made clear as soon as possible.
4. Students are encouraged to participate in host family and school activities and to attend church regularly.
5. Make it clear how you would like to be addressed and spend time with your host family so you can become better acquainted.
6. Be sure to ask permission before making plans to leave the home or to invite someone into the home. Tell the host parents where you are going, how you will get there, who you will be with, and when you will be back. Permission may be denied for concern for your safety or conflict with family plans.
7. In addition to the financial consideration details outlined in the SCHS School Information Handbook, students are responsible for their own spending money, long distance phone calls, personal items, and any costs incurred while participating in family activities.
8. Students' parents will provide the host family with a Medical Release form. This enables the host family to make decisions regarding the health and welfare of the student in an emergency. All SCHS students must carry accident insurance. In addition, international students must carry private health insurance.
9. As an international student in Canada on a student visa, you may not use alcohol or illegal drugs. Immigration Canada does not permit you to take a paying job in Canada. Other student regulations for all SCHS students can be found in the SCHS School Information Handbook.
10. The SCHS Principal may be contacted anytime difficulties or misunderstandings occur. Ask questions, be open and be considerate to ensure your experience is memorable.
11. Host families will discipline students as they would their own children, although abusive discipline cannot be tolerated. If misbehaviour cannot be corrected with the host family, the SCHS Principal will be notified. Continued violations may eventually affect the student's enrolment at SCHS.
12. The host family will not be held responsible for damage or loss of property or physical harm incurred except in the case where Canadian law has been breached.

Date

Student Signature

