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SCS HOMESTAY LETTER OF AGREEMENT 2019-2020

The Southside Christian School Homestay Program is designed to promote friendship, language learning, a caring and comfortable living environment, and to provide for cultural exchanges between United States families and International students attending SCS.

I UNDERSTAND AND/OR AGREE TO THAT:

1. SCS will administer payment of the monthly Homestay fee to my host family on my behalf.
2. The SCS International Student Coordinator will select a host family for me from those who are available, based on the information I provided in my application. I understand that although SCS will try, it is possible that not all personal preferences will be met.
3. I am responsible for all long distance phone charges, if I choose to use the home phone. I will always ask permission to use the home phone for long distance calls. Cell phone are my sole responsibility.
4. I will not engage in, nor sign, any contracts with my host family that would incur any financial obligation or responsibility for either party (EG. bank accounts, rental equipment, etc.)
5. I will become familiar with and understand the routines of my homestay family, and will follow these routines.
6. I will discuss any specific or special requirements with my host family (preferences or interests) so that they know what I need to have to feel comfortable in their home.
7. I will always get written permission from my parents, US legal guardian and my International Student Coordinator before I plan to stay away from my host family overnight.
8. I will always tell my host family if I will not be home for dinner, or if I will be arriving home later than expected.
9. I will ask my host family for permission to invite guests/friends to the house.
10. I will purchase my own toiletries, personal items and laundry detergent.
11. I will clean my own room and help to make sure that my house spaces are tidy and clean. I will also do my part to keep the common areas neat and clean such as bathrooms, the living rooms, kitchens and outdoor common areas. I will assist with common home tasks such as clearing the dinner table, helping with laundry, and at times prepare my own breakfast with the food provided by my host family.
12. I will arrange for my health insurance with SCS so that I am fully covered in case I get sick or injured during my time in the states. (See HCC Medical Insurance link on our website for Health insurance information).
13. In the rare cases when I have a disagreement with my host family, I will first try to work it out with them directly. If the situation is still a problem, I will contact the Homestay Coordinator to try and rectify the problem. Because the US culture is different from the culture of my country, my hosts may not know that I am feeling uncomfortable so I will commit to telling them how I feel.
14. I will attend weekly church service with my host family.

15. I will only consider moving out of my homestay placement after a major problem has been thoroughly discussed with the host family, the SCS International Student Coordinator, and the SCS Head of School. According to SCS, the only reasons for a student to move out of a homestay placement is if a student feels unsafe in any way, there is a major personality conflict that causes feelings of insecurity, or there are health issues that would compromise a student's health.
16. If I need to move to another Host family, I understand the following:
 - a. I need to offer a 30day advanced notice in writing to the SCS International Student Coordinator.
 - b. I need to pay the homestay fees for the 30 days before I move out.
17. I am responsible for any damages to the house that is a direct result of my own negligence or lack of respect for house property. I will pay the full amount owing for damages that are agreed to be my responsibility.
18. I will conduct myself with appropriate behavior in my homestay. Inappropriate behavior includes, but are not limited to, the use/possession of illegal drugs or paraphernalia, sexual relations, intoxication, theft, racism, willful property damage, or inappropriate internet usage. Such conduct is prohibited in the homestay and is in accordance with the SCS code of conduct.
19. Students who are no longer attending classes are not eligible to live with a SCS homestay family.
20. I understand that I will be matched with a host family when the SCS International Student Coordinator has received the completed student application and the signed letter for enrollment.
21. While this Letter of Agreement is meant to be comprehensive, due to the nature of providing Homestay, your signature releases Southside Christian School and Host Family from any liability within the norm of Host Family services.

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ITEMS 1-20 OF THIS SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HOMESTAY PROGRAM LETTER OF AGREEMENT.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____
(as appropriate)