

STUDENT GUIDE FOR HOMESTAY

As a student living for a month with a host family, you will have many opportunities to learn about a different culture and customs as well as to practise your English language skills. Your time with your family will be much easier if you reach out to your family, showing them the respect and consideration you would your own family. We hope you will soon feel so comfortable with them that if problems arise, you can easily communicate your concerns. Please be assured that your family is there to help you make the most of your stay in Canada.

BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

Send a letter to your hosts describing yourself, your interests and your family.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN YOUR HOMESTAY

Find out the family rules and respect them. These rules might involve:

- **The telephone:** Find out when it would be most convenient for you to use the phone and particularly how late you should receive calls. You will need to arrange for the payment of long distance calls. You might decide to only use collect calls or purchase a calling card.
- **The bathroom:** Find out when would be the most convenient time for you to use the bathroom in the morning and evening. Note that it is your responsibility to bring your own shampoo, toothpaste, etc.
- **Meals:** Your family is responsible for providing you with three meals a day. This applies as well to outings you take with your family. However, your family could ask you to make your breakfast, for example. You will be responsible for tidying up after yourself after certain meals. Make sure you understand the routine that is used for washing the dishes. The family will certainly like it if you help clean up after dinner. After all, you are a part of the family now. It would certainly be appreciated if you offered to make a special Danish dish.
- **Laundry:** You will probably be responsible for your personal laundry. If so, make sure you understand how to use the washer and dryer. Your family will supply you with clean sheets and towels on a weekly basis.
- **Your bedroom:** You are responsible for keeping it tidy and clean. However, you are not expected to help with other household chores, for example, general cleaning or babysitting.
- **The internet:** Discuss with your host family if you can use their computer to check your email or if you can connect your laptop to their internet system. Any costs will have to be assumed by you. Obviously, spending long hours on the internet will prevent you from making most use of your opportunity to get to know your family.

- **Key to the house:** Your family will give you a key to your house. Ensure that you understand the family routine regarding locking the house.
- **Damage to property:** If you are inadvertently responsible for the breakage of any property, you should offer to replace it or pay for it. Before using any appliances, ensure that you understand how to operate them.
- **Keeping in contact with your host family:** Keep your family informed of your whereabouts at all times. If you are going to be late, keep your family informed of your plans. They will worry about you otherwise. If you have to miss a meal, advise your family in advance.
- **Sleep-overs:** If you plan on sleeping over at a friend's house, you must plan this with your Homestay parent in advance. Do not stay over at a friend's house without ensuring that your Homestay parent is aware of your plans.
- **Observing the curfew:** Your family will ask you to be home by a certain hour in the evening. If you are late for your curfew, you must call so your family won't worry.
- **Letting your family know of any concerns:** Most problems have solutions when you clearly communicate what is worrying you. For example, if you are cold at night, simply ask for another blanket. If you have more serious concerns, for example, if you find that you are allergic to a pet or you find some aspect of the host family troubling, please communicate your concerns immediately to the Vanier staff.
- **Smoking:** It may well not be allowed in the home.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A VISITOR TO CANADA

You must obey Canadian laws. Please note that the legal age for drinking alcohol in Quebec is 18. The use of illicit drugs is strictly forbidden. Please note that Vanier College has zero tolerance for the use of drugs or alcohol on its premises. Any infraction of these rules may result in immediate termination from the program and your return to Denmark.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE STAY IN CANADA

- Ask your host family where you should keep your passport or other important documents for the duration of your stay.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you. Use an automatic teller card (bankcard), taking out only small amounts at a time.
- You must have complete personal hospital and medical insurance plan for the duration of your stay in Montreal. You must provide proof of this insurance to Vanier College before your arrival in Canada. You should always carry documentation pertaining to this

insurance. Please note that Vanier College or the host family will not be liable for fees related to sickness or accidents. Any cost incurred is the responsibility of the student.

- You should ensure that any valuables are insured by your own insurance policy as lost or stolen items will be your responsibility, and not your host's or Vanier College's. You should understand that you are not covered by the host family's insurance; therefore, in case of any accident or natural disaster, you will not be protected by it. Do not bring unnecessary valuable items with you.

CONTACT INFORMATION AT VANIER COLLEGE

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