



HOMESTAY HOST GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Homestay Program of NorthWest Homestay and Student Agency. As a host family, you assume a very important role in your international student's stay. Your student will look to you for guidance regarding our way of life in Canada. You will also have the opportunity to learn about your student's culture and traditions. We trust that you will have an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Homestay Period: Homestay periods are calculated by calendar months. Shorter stays will be calculated by number of nights.

Airport Transfers: The host family will be responsible for picking up from and returning its students to the airport with additional charge.

Payment of Fees: Homestay fees, including that for extensions, are to be paid by students to NorthWest Homestay. The Agency will pay the host family on a monthly basis by cheque before the beginning of each Homestay month.

Notice: Students who shorten their original Homestay registration period are required to give two weeks' notice to the host family. After staying for two months or longer, students are required to give one month's notice. As necessary, North West Homestay will determine how much notice is required.

Number of Students: At any time, the family may host a maximum of 4 Homestay students from NorthWest Homestay/or another agency. Where there is more than one student in the home, the students must be native speakers of different languages.

The Room: Each student should have a separate room with a window, a bed, a closet (or wardrobe), a dresser, a study desk, a chair and good lighting. The host will provide the bed linens, extra blankets and towels as required. The room may not be shared unless approved by North West Homestay. If the student is to be offered a room other than what has been approved, please notify the Agency in advance.

The Bathroom: Students are responsible for supplying their own toiletries and personal care items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. Students are also responsible for cleaning up after themselves after each use of the bathroom.

Laundry and Housekeeping: Students are responsible for keeping their own room and other areas of their use neat and tidy. They are responsible for their own laundry. The host is to provide laundry detergent and training on how to use the washer and dryer. You may offer to include their laundry with your own but expect that your students may wish to do their own laundry.

Telephone: Students should have access to your telephone for incoming or outgoing local calls. Long distance calls should be collect or calling card calls. It may be necessary for the host to advise the student that the telephone may not be used before or after certain times in the day because of disruption to family members, or that calls should be limited to a certain amount of time.

Meals: The host will provide the student with three meals a day: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Breakfast: Students can often help themselves to a Canadian breakfast such as cereal, toast and jam and coffee. However, if you are preparing breakfast for your family, your student will usually have what you are serving.

Lunch: Students will need to take a packed lunch to school. You can teach your student how to prepare a lunch and where and which ingredients are available. If it is your practise to prepare your children's packed lunches, you may wish to prepare your student's lunch at the same time.

Dinner: Students will have whatever is served for dinner. If the entire family is going out for dinner, include your student as your guest. Advise your student of the time at which dinner is served and ask that he or she call you if he or she will not be home on time, or will not be coming home for dinner. You may keep a plate of dinner for your student to warm up when he or she arrives home later.

Host Family Rules: A written "list of rules" for your students is not necessary and, as students often have a limited understanding of the English language, they may not understand the lists. Instead, provide an informal tour of the home to find out whether your student knows how to use the facilities such as a flush toilet, electric stove (rather than a gas range), microwave oven, security issues, etc. Your student is a part of your family and is expected to follow the same rules and guidelines as other family members. These may include curfews for weeknights and weekends depending on age, times and areas of the home where guests may be entertained, use of and times for showering or use of the laundry facilities, etc. Feel free to discuss these issues or "house rules" with your student.

Entertainment: Many students plan special trips together. They will appreciate any assistance and recommendations you can give them. If you have planned an activity for your family, try to include your student if he or she wishes to participate. Students should expect to pay their own way at attractions.

Family Absence: If, for any reason, you must be away during your student's stay, North West Homestay must be informed in advance. This does not apply to family outings or trips where you are taking your student with you. It may not be suitable or comfortable for your student to be left alone at home. The decision to do so will depend on your student's age and maturity and only after openly discussing it with the student. Other options to consider include arranging for a house sitter who can help to prepare your student's meals, etc. or moving your student to another approved homestay or to a relative's home. Those plans should be discussed with North West Homestay well in advanced.

Finally, if at any time, you have questions or concerns regarding your students or your responsibilities as a host family, please do not hesitate to contact North West Homestay and Student Agency.

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