

**Post-Arrival Orientation
Summer International
Students and Families**



**Association for Teen-Age
Diplomats**

For additional details about the topics listed below, see the parent pre-arrival orientation and student post-arrival orientation for year/semester International exchange students.

Handouts to be provided to the parents:

- “Culturegram” specific to each country the exchange students come from
- “ATAD Policies for Emergency Situations” P3 in P&P Notebook
- “ATAD Contacts” on website in Orientation section of the Policies and Procedures
- “International Student Directory”

Introductions:

Be sure students and families know:

1. What Program Chair role is
2. How to reach Program Chair
3. That Program Chair will be contacting them at least every 2 weeks
4. Students and families should call Program Chair at any time with questions and concerns

The exchange students and parents should then be in separate discussion groups, then reunited for the last topic.

Overview of Purposes of Program:

1. Family living experience
2. Member of the family, not a guest
3. Not a travel program

Likes, Dislikes, Don’t Understand:

- List on separate sheets of paper
- Discuss Dislikes and Don’t Understand, with ideas on how to cope with those things
- Review Likes, encourage positive outlook, importance of trying new things and experiences

Family Living:

- Behaviors - formed by beliefs, attitudes and values
 - not right or wrong, just different
 - do not place value judgment on behaviors

Adjustment -

	Host Family	Student
Values	Keep own, but learn about other’s	Keep own, but learn about other’s
Behaviors	Keep own (70%)	Adapt (70%)
	Adapt (30%)	Keep own (30%)

Transportation - plan ahead, discuss options

Communication is vital to understanding. Student should make every effort to talk with Host Family members and to become a family member.
Host family in turn should talk with student and involve him/her in family plans. Discuss and explain family rules and expectations.
Signs of sexual abuse and exploitation, and how to report.

Expectations of students:

T = Talk, share, communicate with family and with Program Chair
O = Obey, follow family rules
P = Participate, do what the family does, join in, help with chores
H = Help, do your share of the chores
A = Affection, show affection
T = Trust, show that you respect your parents' judgment

Hand out and review Policies and Rules with special emphasis on:

1. Speaking English, even on the phone unless talking with natural family
2. Communications home – infrequent leads to best adjustment
3. Alcohol, drugs, dangerous activities
4. Driving – NEVER!
5. Money – student is responsible for personal expenses
6. Travel - discouraged, permission required in advance

Homesickness – Culture Shock:

1. Review typical pattern
 - a. Things are good
 - b. Things are boring; everything is better at home
 - c. Thinking things are “stupid;” red flag - cultural misunderstanding
 - d. Settling in to routine
 - e. Feeling good, excited about going home, sad to be leaving
2. Signs of homesickness
 - a. Sleeping a lot
 - b. Sadness
 - c. Wanting to call home
 - d. Irritability
 - e. Unwillingness to cooperate
3. What to do about it
 - a. Don't stay in your room
 - b. Take a walk
 - c. Talk to your family, Program Chair
 - d. Find something to do

Close with encouragement!

Families Reunite:

Present Likes, Dislikes, and Don't Understand lists as appropriate
Give encouragement