

AMERICANS OVERSEAS PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT



Association for Teen-Age
Diplomats

EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIANS ARE
EXPECTED TO READ THIS DOCUMENT AND SIGN THE LAST PAGE

INTRODUCTION

The persons signing this agreement understand that the purposes of the ATAD program are:

To increase the understanding of people, cultures, and values,
To provide an opportunity for widening circles of friendship throughout the world.

These purposes are promoted through a family living experience, supplemented wherever required by regular attendance at a secondary school.

The rules set forth by ATAD are made for the benefit of the student's safety and well-being, as well as that of the student's natural and Host Families, the host country, and ATAD.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

STUDENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

As a Teen-Age Diplomat, I accept responsibility to fulfill the purpose of the ATAD program to the best of my ability, and to abide by all policies and procedures set forth in this agreement.

I recognize that the purpose of the student abroad program is to promote better understanding between peoples of all nations. While abroad I will act as a representative of my country, my school, and my family and will try to be a true Teen-Age Diplomat.

I agree to live with my Host Family as a full member of the family, assuming all responsibilities as a sharing member and complying with the rules of the Host Family.

I agree to maintain contact with the ATAD Overseas Liaison in my host country once a month (every two weeks for summer students) about my progress in my Host Family and in school.

I agree to abide by all rules and regulations as set forth by the ATAD program. These rules and regulations are as follows:

Alcohol: Students are expected to observe host country laws and Host Family guidelines with regard to the use of alcohol. Students should not use alcohol in a manner which is excessive, inappropriate, or embarrassing to the Host Family or ATAD. Inappropriate use of alcohol may lead to dismissal from the program.

Communications Home: Students are encouraged to send letters and e-mails to family and friends in the home country on an occasional basis. Phone calls, e-mails and other electronic communication to home country family and friends should be limited and infrequent. Frequent telephone or electronic conversations with natural family and home country friends may cause difficulties in the student's adjustment to the Host Family and school. Lack of adjustment may be cause for dismissal from the program. Before placing a long distance call, the student should ask permission of the host parents. ATAD students should also understand that when they conduct conversations in English, it may cause distrust or discomfort in the Host Family.

Dangerous Activities: Some activities are considered too dangerous for ATAD students and are not permitted. Examples are hang gliding, hitchhiking, hunting, parachute jumping, piloting a private plane, bungee jumping, and driving or riding on a snowmobile or all terrain vehicle (ATV).

There are other activities judged to involve some danger (scuba diving, mountain climbing, travel in a private plane, white water rafting) or some medical risk (body piercing, tattoos). For these activities and any for which you are uncertain, first consult the ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country. Prior written permission must be given by the natural parents and by the ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country for the student to participate in such activities. This permission must release the Association for Teen-Age Diplomats and the Host Family from all responsibility during the time the student is engaged in that activity.

For participation in any activity, the student must follow all laws and practice reasonable safety precautions. Furthermore it is the sole responsibility of the student and natural parents or guardians to ascertain whether the activity is covered under their current insurance policy, and to obtain additional insurance as necessary.

Driving: ATAD students are not permitted to drive any car or motorcycle for any reason, even if they possess an international driver's license. ATAD students may not take driver education courses. Violators of this policy will be dismissed from the program.

Drugs: ATAD students may not buy, sell, possess or use of illegal drugs. Violation of the law is a reason for dismissal from the program. If the student is arrested for a drug related incident, please refer to the section on Violations of the Law.

Employment: Participants in the ATAD program are not permitted to take full-time employment during their stay overseas. However, they may hold informal part-time jobs such as baby sitting, lawn work, etc., as long it does not interfere with school or Host Family obligations.

Extension of Stay: All students will travel to and from their Host Family as arranged by ATAD. Travel plans are made in consultation with the ATAD Program Chair in Rochester and the Overseas Liaison in the student's overseas country. There is no extension of stay. ATAD students are not to ask for, nor receive, an extension of stay. In the event of violation of this policy, ATAD's responsibility ends with the return flight to which the student has been assigned and the student will be considered off program.

Host Families: Students are assigned to Host Families by ATAD. Each student is expected to adjust to the lifestyle of the Host Family, to follow Host Family customs, and to participate in family activities. If there are any problems, consult with your ATAD Overseas Liaison. Usually these problems can be resolved successfully.

Marriage: Married students are not permitted on the ATAD program.

Money: The Host Family provides housing and food. If required for school attendance, student may be responsible for expenses such as transportation, uniform, books and lab fees. The American student going overseas provides spending money for expenses such as personal items, postage, telephone calls, clothing, gifts, trips, movies and recreation. Payment of airline charges for excess baggage is the responsibility of the student.

Pregnancy: If a student is found to be pregnant or to cause a pregnancy while on an ATAD program, the natural parents or guardians will be notified, and the student will be dismissed from the program.

School Attendance: If the ATAD student is overseas for a semester or year, attendance at a school is required. A normal course of school work should be maintained; non-attendance or expulsion is a reason for dismissal from the program.

School Performance: Students are expected to do their best in school, go to school each school day, do homework on time, take all tests, and participate in class. After a reasonable adjustment time, failure to meet school expectations or requirements, underachievement, or inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the program.

Student as a Responsible Diplomat:

- 1) Students are expected to speak to school and community groups about their country and the positive experiences of living in a different country.
- 2) Students are encouraged to make friends in the host country and participate in new activities.
- 3) As representatives of the ATAD program, students are encouraged to help find local students interested in going overseas and to help find families to host International Students.
- 4) Students are encouraged to learn and improve language skills. Students using English in public or social groups may create a feeling of distrust and unfriendliness.

Supervision: The Host Family is responsible for the health and safety of the student. To assist in safety, all ATAD students must have adult supervision for overnight stays.

Travel: ATAD is a program designed to provide a family living experience, NOT a travel program. American students going overseas agree to travel to and from the Host Family as arranged by ATAD. While living with the Host Family the student may travel with Host Family members after notification of the ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country. Travel without the Host Family must meet the following requirements:

- 1) written permission from host parents
- 2) written permission from natural parents/legal guardians
- 3) written invitation from individuals inviting student
- 4) permission from ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country
- 5) permission from the school if the travel will require missing school

Unauthorized travel is a reason for dismissal from the program.

Visits from Natural, Immediate, or Extended Family and Friends: Natural, immediate, or extended family and friends are **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED** from visiting the International Student during the program. The visit may change the student's relationship with the Host Family. This is the exchange student's experience, not the natural family's experience. Therefore, the best time for a visit is sometime after the exchange is over.

If the natural, immediate, or extended family and friends have a specific, valid reason why a visit during the program is necessary, then they must:

- Request approval for the visit from their program chair. The program chair will then contact the liaison in the host country.
- Allow the liaison in the host country to discuss the potential visit with the host family.
- Not make travel arrangements until approval is received from the liaison in the host country.

Violations of the Law: ATAD students must abide by all laws (US while here and host while overseas). If a student is involved in any violation of the law, the Overseas Liaison in the host country must be notified immediately. Violation of the law is a reason for dismissal from the program. The payment of fines and/or restitution of property or stolen funds must be made by the student and natural family. Legal expenses are the responsibility of the student and natural family.

Weapons: The possession or use of firearms and other weapons is forbidden, and is grounds for dismissal from the program. Weapons include, but are not limited to, switch blades, daggers, swords, Kung Fu stars, and bombs.

PARENTAL AGREEMENT

FEES AND MONETARY CONDITIONS:

We agree that our financial responsibility to ATAD shall include:

Payment of a non-refundable application fee

Payment of all program fees per the Program Payment Schedule:

first payment by March 10th

second payment by April 10th

We understand that the Host Family provides housing and food. We agree to provide spending money for personal expenses such as phone calls, postage, recreation, and clothing for our son or daughter while abroad. We agree to pay for all medical, optical and dental expenses not covered by insurance.

We understand that the program fee does not include payment for passport, visa, inoculations, medical insurance or bills, or travel other than officially sponsored ATAD travel. We agree to pay for transportation, uniforms, books, laboratory fees, etc. if required for school. A student will not be placed in a school that requires the payment of tuition.

We agree to be responsible for any legally enforceable debts incurred by my son or daughter while abroad. If ATAD discharges any such debts, whether due to emergency or as a matter of convenience, we agree to repay such amount to ATAD upon demand. We understand that if such payment is not made in a reasonable length of time, the debt may be referred to a collection agency by ATAD.

We agree to allow the ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country to hold our student's airline documents (paper or e-ticket) for safe keeping.

DISMISSAL FROM PROGRAM:

We understand that ATAD reserves the right to dismiss our son or daughter from the program at any time for behavior detrimental to the program. ATAD will provide us with a full report, and the judgement of ATAD in all matters will be final. Actions which may constitute dismissal from program include, but are not limited to, those described in this document.

Impact of dismissal from the program:

All ATAD support services will be withdrawn.

Return home may be at the student's own expense.

Student visa may be invalidated.

We agree that if our son or daughter should be absent from the Host Family, school or other designated places without prior approval of the Host Family and ATAD, the ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country may dismiss the student from the program.

We agree that ATAD is absolved of all obligations, legal or otherwise, to the student or his/her parents or guardians if the student is dismissed from the program.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:

We agree not to arrange personal trips for our son or daughter with friends or family who may be abroad.

We agree not to visit our son or daughter without prior arrangements with the Host Family, ATAD, and ATAD Overseas Liaison in the host country. We understand that any visits from family members or friends are strongly discouraged as not in the best interest of the student, program or Host Family adjustment. The interruption breaks the continuity of the relationship with the Host Family and may diminish the exchange experience for the student and Host Family.

We agree that our student will travel to and from the host country from Rochester, New York as directed by the Program Chair and ATAD. We agree that ATAD has the right to change travel arrangements should conditions necessitate.

We understand that return visits to the United States are prohibited except in the case of severe illness or death of a family member. An unauthorized visit will result in dismissal from the program. The trip breaks the continuity of the relationship with the Host Family and diminishes the exchange experience.

ATAD will not grant extension of stay. ATAD is not empowered to grant waivers or visa extensions, nor will the organization or its representative participate in the investigation of an extension unless there is demonstrated evidence of a medical or special emergency requiring such an extension. In the absence of such an emergency, ATAD's responsibility ends with the return flight to which the student has been assigned.

ATAD LIABILITY:

Should ATAD grant permission and acceptance of our son or daughter to participate in the ATAD program, we do hereby release and discharge ATAD and all of its members from liability or demands of whatever nature which might arise by reason of accident, illness or injury, dismissal, or other consequences arising from the student's actions or participation in the ATAD program. We also release ATAD from any liability in connection with any cause, event or occurrence beyond the control of ATAD, including but not limited to natural disasters, war, civil disturbances, and negligence of parties not subject to the control of ATAD.

We understand and agree that ATAD utilizes commercial airlines, trains, buses, vans, restaurants and hotels in travel to and from the Host Family and in other ATAD sponsored travel, and that ATAD cannot control every service these firms provide. Consequently, ATAD is not responsible for any actions or negligence including but not limited to lost luggage, travel delays, and hotel reservations not honored. We further agree that ATAD reserves the right to change or alter travel, lodging, or other arrangements if ATAD believes such change to be in the best interest of the program.

MEDICAL STATEMENT:

We affirm that the information on the Medical Certificate is accurate and contains no material omissions of which we are aware. Further, we affirm that our son or daughter has no chronic condition or disability which has not been stated in the Medical Certificate and that he or she takes no prescription medication not listed thereon. We agree to immediately inform ATAD of any changes in this representation. If ATAD receives new information, we recognize that ATAD may use this information to reconsider acceptance of our student.

We affirm that our son or daughter has adequate medical insurance coverage that will apply abroad for the duration of the program. This medical insurance provides medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per accident or illness, with a deductible not exceeding \$500 per accident or illness. We agree to be responsible for and pay all bills for any medical, optical, dental, pharmaceutical or similar services which may be required by my son or daughter while abroad, and which are not covered by said medical insurance. If ATAD pays such bills, whether due to emergency, as a matter of convenience or otherwise, we agree to repay such amount to ATAD immediately upon demand.

HOST FAMILY AND SCHOOL PLACEMENT:

We agree to abide by the decisions made by ATAD and its representatives in the selection of an appropriate Host Family and school for our son or daughter.

We authorize ATAD and its representatives to change the Host Family or school designated for our son or daughter if ATAD believes such change to be in the best interest of our son or daughter. We understand that ATAD will immediately notify us of any changes.

PARENTAL PERMISSION AND MEDICAL RELEASE:

We agree with and understand the purpose of the ATAD program and give permission to our son or daughter to apply for and participate in the program of the Association for Teen-Age Diplomats.

In the event our son or daughter is unable to continue to participate in the program due to illness, injury or death, ATAD acting through its representatives, is authorized to make whatever arrangements are appropriate under the circumstances, including releasing our son or daughter to our personal care.

ATAD, its personnel or representatives shall not be responsible for any debts incurred in conjunction with any illness or accident.

We give permission for our child _____ to receive any immunizations, inoculations, or medical tests to evaluate physical health, that are deemed necessary or appropriate by the program, the host school, or the host parents.
(Print Student's Name)

We agree to and do authorize ATAD, its designated representatives, and the host parents to act for us in any emergency, accident or illness. We authorize any medical organization or personnel to release any and all information regarding our son or daughter to ATAD, its designated representatives, and the host parents. We understand that diligent efforts will be made to contact us before medical treatment when conditions or emergency situations allow.

We have read the above and agree to our responsibilities as stated. (Student and both parents are required to sign.)

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____ Relationship _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____ Relationship _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Please keep one copy of this agreement and return one copy to ATAD.