

San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley Homestay Program

International Student Information Sheet

Would you like to experience family life in America by living with a host family?

Our host families are located near each of our colleges (Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College). Our Homestay Program Coordinator matches students with host families.

What are the benefits of a homestay?

- Living with an American family will help you to better learn about American culture and life.
- You can dramatically improve your English language skills.
- You have a safe, comfortable place to live in a caring and supportive family environment.

What is life like with a host family?

- The family will include the student as a member of their family, including participation in family activities and daily life. Students may be expected to be more independent in taking care of themselves than with their family at home
- The host will provide a private room furnished with a bed, linen, chest of drawers, desk, chair, window and closet
- Students are expected to clean their own room, do their laundry, and clean up after themselves in the kitchen
- Students are provided two meals a day (breakfast & dinner) 7 days a week if the Full Board option with a meal plan is selected
- Students on full board meal plans prepare breakfast themselves and the host family prepares dinner
- Students purchase lunch and any special foods, snacks, or personal items for themselves
- Utilities and access to free wireless internet are included

Expectations of Students:

- Pay Homestay application and placement fee of \$250
- Pay Host family \$500 deposit and rent for the first two months the week you arrive
- Stay in the Homestay Program for a minimum of two months
- Respect and follow the guidelines of the host family
- Abstain from illegal activities during your stay with the host family
- Notify the family and the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley Housing Program Coordinator at least 30 days before moving out

Homestay Costs For 2016-17:

- **Application Fee:** \$250 (non-refundable)
- **Deposit \$500**
- **Students will have the choice of the following housing options:**

Option 1: Monthly Cost: \$1,275 (Full Board)

Rooms with 2 meals per day (breakfast & dinner only) 7 days a week. With this option, your host will provide you with breakfast item that you can “grab-and –go” or prepare yourself. Lunch is not provided.

Option 2: Monthly Cost: \$975 (Room Only)

This option is for students who choose to take care of all their own meals. Students will have access to the kitchen for cooking and will be given cabinet and refrigerator space available to store food.

<u>Option 1</u>		<u>Option 2</u>	
Application Fee	\$250	Application Fee	\$250
Deposit	\$500	Deposit	\$500
Two months' rent with meals	\$2,550	Two months' rent <i>without</i> meals	\$1,950
Total Move-In Cost	\$3,300	Total Move-In Cost	\$2,700

Policies Regarding Payments:

- Students are expected to stay in the Homestay Program for a minimum of two months, then rent is paid monthly.
- Payment for the first two months is due within one week of arrival at the homestay.
- No refunds are provided if the student moves out before the required two months.
- Students **must give 30 days' notice** to the Housing Program Coordinator and the host family before moving out.

Prices are subject to change.

Homestay Students Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply?

Submit the Homestay application along with the \$250 Application Fee. Application deadlines are July 15 for Fall Semester and December 15 for Spring Semester. Because of the high demand for homestays, we cannot guarantee that you will receive a placement. Therefore, we encourage you to submit your application as early as possible.

How do I choose a homestay family?

When you fill out your application, you will answer questions regarding your preferences, as well as specific information that will help us match you with one of our Host Families. Application requests will be honored whenever possible, depending on availability.

What happens if I don't like my family?

We will send you the details of your homestay family so that you may contact them prior to your arrival. If there are problems or concerns that come up, we encourage students to talk to their families first and then contact the Housing Program Coordinator. If problems cannot be solved, then we will try matching you with another host family.

Is my home stay family going to take me to college every day?

No. Your Host Family will help you with understanding the local bus system. All students are matched with families that are close to bus stops, under 60 minutes travel time to school by bus, and most families are 30-45 minutes from the college by bus.

Who is going to pick me up at the airport?

The Colleges will have designated student ambassadors to welcome you at San Francisco International Airport if you arrive on one of the specified "Arrival Dates and Times" that will be provided to you. We have specific days that we will greet students at the airport at the beginning of each semester. They will have a sign with your name and college written on it. These students can help direct you to a taxi or shuttle service to get to your homestay. In some cases, a host family may be able to pick you up at the airport. Contact the Housing Program Coordinator for more details.

Still have questions? E-mail us at: housingcoordinator@smccd.edu or at 650-358-6856