

# San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley Homestay Program

## Host Family Information

San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley Homestay Program is establishing their own homestay program and is looking for qualified hosts who have a strong interest in hosting and interacting with international students.

### Why should you host an international student in your home?

- Learn about other cultures
- Meet and interact with visitors from other nations
- Establish global friendships
- Help visitors practice their English

Families participating in the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley Homestay Program can create friendships that last a lifetime. By living with a family, students make new friends and improve their English skills as they experience family life in America.

Include the student as a member of your family - ask him or her to participate in family activities and daily life. Students are expected to clean their own room, do their laundry, and clean up after themselves in the kitchen and bathroom.

### What do we expect from host families?

- Live within 60 minutes of one of our colleges using public transportation (including walk to bus stop and transfers)
- Provide a private room furnished with a bed, linen, chest of drawers, desk, chair, window and closet
- Internet and utilities are included in the rent.
- Be a native English speaker (bi-lingual households are okay as long as English is clear and fluent).

### Housing Options & Costs

Families must offer one 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, the family will provide the student with breakfast items that the student can “grab-and-go” or prepare him/herself. 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. The family must provide access to the kitchen for cooking and provide the student with cabinet and refrigerator space to store food.

## **Student Payment to Host Family**

Students pay for the first two months of their homestay plus a deposit of \$500 within the first week of arrival and then month to month after that. There are no refunds for eligible students who choose to move out before the end of the two month period.

## **Family Vacations**

Families who go on vacation should email the Housing Program Coordinator with dates and plans to provide for their student's meals. It would be best if a friend of the family or extended family member could cook meals and check on the student.

## **If students want to move out or change families**

- New students must remain in the homestay program for a minimum of two months.
- Students have to continue paying for the Homestay for a minimum of two months, even if they move out early.
- Students who plan to move out, or those who change host families, are required to give their host families 30 days' notice.

## **How do you become a host family?**

- Complete the Host Family Application Form (*add link*) and send it to [housingcoordinator@smccd.edu](mailto:housingcoordinator@smccd.edu) or to the following address:

Mrs. Julnar Msalam, Housing Program Coordinator  
San Mateo County Community College District  
3401 CSM Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94402

- When we have received all of your paper work, you will receive an e-mail from Mrs. Julnar Msalam, to schedule an appointment to visit your home. She can also be reached at 650-358-6856.

- Once your home inspection has been approved, background checks will need to be completed.

## **Host Family Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What are the house requirements in order to be a Host Family?**

In addition to the desire to share your home and your life with another person, there are some requirements:

- Must be under 15 minute walk to bus stop from your home
- Must be under a 60 minute trip to campus by bus (includes walk to/from bus stops, and transfer time)
- Each student needs to have a private room (at least 81 square feet) with a window, a bed, linen, dresser, closet, desk, light, and a door that can be locked
- Internet access
- All residents over age 18 must complete a background check
- The primary language spoken in the home must be English.

### **2. Is there a limit to the number of students any one family can have?**

Each student must have his/her own space as described above. If a family can accommodate more than one student, this can be discussed with the Housing Program Coordinator on a case by case basis.

### **3. What about transportation?**

Each homestay family must be within 15 minutes walking distance to the bus stop and 60 minutes by bus to the college (including transfers, and walk to bus stop). If your family does not fall into either of these categories, it does not mean that you cannot be considered; however, students placed in your home would most likely be those with their own transportation.

### **4. What about the use of equipment in the house?**

In addition to bathroom and eating facilities, each student needs to have access to laundry and the telephone for local calls and internet. **It is not recommended to let a student use a business computer. A family computer is optional.** .

### **5. What if my student wishes to make long distance calls?**

The student is expected to pay for all long distance calls that he/she makes. A telephone card or a cell phone might be the best answer. San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley does not recommend that the student be allowed to make long distance calls on the family phone bill. Exception: Student should be allowed to call his/her family on arrival night.

## **6. What do I do about meal times?**

Each household is different. Communicate with your student about when meals are served if you are hosting a student with a meal plan. If you will not be home at mealtime, you must let your student know. If the student will not be home, he/she should let you know. In either case, have food available for the student to eat when he/she arrives home.