

Homestay Guest Guidelines

Welcome to Homestay! We want your stay with us to be enjoyable. As you will be staying in someone's home, we will ask you to abide by certain guidelines that all guests and hosts agree to follow. This will make your stay with us more pleasant.

What is Homestay?

Homestay is affordable housing for international students and interns. It is a clean and safe accommodation in a friendly American home where you can practice English language skills during shared time with your host.

Students and interns can purchase a private or shared bedroom, a private or shared bathroom, and one or two meals per day (continental breakfast and dinner). The host provides a bed, desk (lamp and chair), a place to put clothing, linens & towels, and whatever meals that are purchased.

Got Questions or Problems?

Simple issues in the home can usually be discussed in the home with your host. Being familiar with the guidelines and discussing the issue with the appropriate person can clear up most confusion about what is expected of you or your host.

All arrangements for your accommodations are made through San Francisco Homestay. If you have any questions or problems regarding your accommodation, please phone or email the appropriate homestay personnel: Brandon College (415)391-5711 • info@brandoncollege.com

If you have a problem but do not communicate it to us when it occurs, we cannot be held responsible and will not issue refunds based on untimely communications.

Enjoy Your Homestay

Please feel welcome in our homes! Make certain that you engage in conversations with your host(s). Practice your English and learn about each other!

Please Respect Your Host

Homestay hosts provide this service because they have an interest in international culture. There are certain services that they perform and certain responsibilities that are yours. Please be courteous and respectful when interacting with your hosts and other guests.

San Francisco Homestay Guidelines and Your Host's House Rules

Please remember: when you live in homestay, you are living in someone's home. Please be sensitive to the needs of others in your home and understand that each home will have some "house rules" for all family members and guests to live by.

We encourage you to talk with your host to make sure you understand what they expect of you. An enjoyable time can be had if you understand and live within these rules. Please be aware that failure to follow homestay rules, or to pay your fees and pay on time, may result in probation or immediate removal from homestay.

Please Clean up After Yourself

Please keep your bedroom area clean and neat. Hosts will provide you with a clean room to move-in to, however, the daily and weekly cleaning of the room becomes your responsibility once you occupy it. Please clean up after yourself in the bathroom, whether it is a shared or private bathroom. The continental breakfast is self-serve and you will need to clean up after you have breakfast. After dinner, hosts will greatly appreciate assistance in cleaning and dish washing.

Personal Hygiene

Please be familiar with American customs regarding personal cleanliness.

You Are Not Responsible For Jobs in the Home

You will not be asked to do big jobs for the family. For example, it is not your responsibility to baby-sit, mow the lawn, or rake the leaves. You are only responsible for simple chores such as cleaning up after yourself, washing your dishes, doing your own laundry, and, helping the family clean up after a meal.

Not Coming Home for Dinner or for the Evening

If you decide to have dinner out, please inform your host ahead of time so that dinner will not be prepared for you that night. We do not prorate your fees if you decide to dine out and miss the host dinner for the evening.

If you plan to not come home for the night, it is important that you inform the host to not expect you home. We only ask this as a safety precaution. If you do not come home for the night and you have not informed your host, he or she will be concerned that something might have happened to you and might phone us or the police to report you missing.

Please note: if you are under 18 years of age, please respect an 11:00 p.m. curfew.

No Overnight Guests or Romantic Visits

We do not allow overnight guests that are not registered homestay clients, nor do we allow romantic visits (day or night). Please understand that this is a security issue, as well as a family issue. Strangers in the home can make the home unsafe. Also, some hosts have children in the home and do not wish to expose them to certain behaviors. Exceptions to the "no romantic visits" rule apply in some Executive packages but need to be formally agreed upon in advance with the home family and with the homestay agency.

Daytime Visitors

Please follow family guidelines about daytime visitors. Each host might have a different guideline. Again, this is an issue of home security and safety. Only homestay guests and approved visitors are allowed in the home.

If you have a friend or a relative coming to the area and you want them to have a place to stay in homestay, they must fill out an application form and pay the application fee and homestay fees.

Please Conserve Our Water, Electricity, and Gas

Please be aware that our electricity, gas, and water are expensive and limited in availability. Our climate requires us to be careful in the consumption of water in our showers, baths, food preparation, and, cooking. All residents must conserve these resources by limiting the use of electrical and gas powered appliances, as well as limiting the length of showers (5-10 minutes) and other activities that use water.

We do appreciate your efforts to help us conserve water and power. We are experiencing great difficulties with these issues and our water and power bills could be several hundred dollars if we are not careful. This could increase your homestay fee. All residents, guests, and visitors are expected to respect our need to conserve energy by limiting the use of it. You can help avoid increasing the cost of your homestay by participating in some of the conservation activities: limit your showers to 5-10 minutes, turn lights off when not in the room or when sleeping, limit the use of electrical appliances. Your homestay host will provide you with suggestions.

Transportation

You are responsible for your own daily transportation. Your host will help you learn which buses or other forms of public transportation to take to go to school or to your place of internship and to come home.

Public buses run frequently. Our public transit systems offer discount passes if purchased by the week or month. The average commute time within San Francisco is 1 hour or less. If you live outside the city, it may be longer.

Entertainment

You are responsible for your own entertainment and outside activities. Please familiarize yourself with general safety guidelines and follow them when going out in the Bay Area. Your host can assist you with these safety guidelines. If the family invites you to participate in an outing with them (a movie, a special event, etc.) where an admission fee is charged, you will be expected to pay for yourself.

Spending Money

Please make sure you have enough money to cover your expenses for entertainment, transportation, travel, mail, phone calls, snacks, meals outside the home, toiletries (shampoo, soap, razors, laundry detergent, etc.) and other personal items.

As you are paying San Francisco Homestay for your homestay services, your host should never ask you for money unless you are joining them for an event that has an admission fee or San Francisco Homestay has asked them to assist in collecting a fee.

Smoking, Alcoholic Beverages, and, Illegal Drugs

Smoking is not permitted in most homes in California. When permitted to smoke outside, please extinguish your cigarette butts completely and dispose of them properly. Make sure that you get an ashtray from your host family. Please be cautious with cigarettes, as fire is a real hazard in our dry climate. Also, please be sensitive to those who are offended by cigarette smoke.

The legal drinking age in California is 21. And, of course, illegal drugs will not be tolerated in the home.

Laundry

Some hosts have washing machines and dryers available for students and some do not. If they are available, please ask them to show you how to use the machines. Otherwise, please use the neighborhood laundromat, which will be close to the home. You are responsible for providing your own laundry detergent and other laundry supplies.

Telephone Usage: Use a Phone Card

All toll or long distance phone calls must be made with a pre-paid phone card. These are easily purchased at most schools and stores. Under no circumstance, should you accumulate any phone bills on the phone provided by the host. If you do incur a phone bill, you will be responsible for paying the host the cost (in full) of your calls. Telephone usage can, at any time, be limited or prohibited by the host. When using the phone, please remember that other guests or family members also share that phone line, so everyone is asked to keep phone conversations short.

Phone Lines and Computers

We do not guarantee Internet access from any of our homestay homes. If a host does allow you Internet access, please respect house rules regarding when and how long you can be on line.

Please be aware that others share the phone line and can't make or receive phone calls when you are on line.

Also, please be respectful in the usage of Internet access by following these guidelines:

- Use only local dial-up phone numbers.
- Do not access sensitive sites such as pornographic sites.
- Do not incur any phone bills on the host's phone line.

If a host does not offer Internet access, you must find other ways (through your school, company, or cyber-cafes) to do so.

Use of Appliances in the Home

Please ask your family how to use items in the home, such as window shades, bathroom fixtures, kitchen appliances (microwave, dishwasher), etc. We understand that you might not be familiar with the use of these items. Please make sure that you understand how to use them, as you may be held responsible to pay for their repair or replacement if you break them.

Medical

We expect you to have your own medical and dental health insurance. If you do not have these, please ask your school to recommend an insurance plan for you. We highly recommend that you carry health insurance.

If a medical emergency arises, be prepared by knowing what clinic or doctor your school recommends. Your medical care is your responsibility and you are solely responsible for the costs of your healthcare.

Homestay Meal Options

Full Homestay:

Breakfast: Self-serve continental: breads, cold cereals, milk, juice, coffee, tea, yogurt, or fruit.

Dinner: as served by family – no special requests.

Please Remember:

1. You are responsible for your own lunch and snacks.
2. Please do not take food from the home when you go out.
3. If the family is out for the evening or on a weekend outing, a prepared dinner will be available for you to heat up. Please clean up afterwards.
4. Special dietary needs: we respect vegetarians and those with special religious or medical dietary needs, and we will attempt to place them in homes that can accommodate them – prices may vary for

special dietary needs. Otherwise, everyone eats the same meal for dinner.

5. Please be on time for dinner. Otherwise, please notify the family at least 2 - 4 hours in advance if you will be late for dinner or not having dinner at all.

Bed & Breakfast (B&B):

Breakfast: self serve continental: breads, cold cereals, milk, coffee, tea, juice, yogurt, or, fruit.

Please Remember:

1. You are responsible for your own lunch, dinner, and snacks.
2. Please do not take food from the home.
3. You will need to shop for your own food, prepare your own food, and clean-up all materials and surfaces used in cooking.
4. Please coordinate your use of the kitchen with your host.
5. Your host will provide you with your own area to store your food.