

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will meet me at the airport and where?

A group of volunteers will meet you at the airport. In Costa Rica we have just one door to leave the airport, so volunteers will wait for you at the arrival gate/lounge. All the volunteers are going to wear an AFS-Costa Rica shirt or other AFS symbols, so you can easily identify them. You will travel to the orientation site with them by private bus.

Where will the orientation take place?

The arrival orientation will take place at a school in the West Side of San José. This place has dormitories, so we will stay there from beginning to end of the orientation. The orientation will be conducted in English.

How long is the orientation?

You will arrive on Friday. The contents part of the orientation will take place on Saturday, all day long. You will travel to your host communities in private buses (accompanied by the AFS volunteers) on Sunday morning. Your host families will be waiting for you there.

What type of activities will happen during orientation?

We will have presentations and chats about Costa Rican culture, tips about living with a host family, attending school and how to be safe in the country. We will talk about your expectations and general information about the program.

Should I prepare a cultural activity or bring a costume for the orientation?

No, it is not necessary.

What materials do I need bring with me to the orientation?

All the materials are going to be provided by AFS Costa Rica. You don't have to bring anything special.

Will I need to pack a separate bag for orientation? Do I need to pack a towel?

You don't need to pack a separate bag, because you will have access to your luggage during the orientation. You do have to pack a towel. Please make sure you have your visa papers handy, you will need to turn those in during the arrival orientation.

Will I need money during the orientation?

No. AFS Costa Rica will pay for everything that you are going to need during the orientation.

Will I have a chance to exchange money between the time of arrival and the end of orientation?

No. You can exchange money in your host community once you arrive there.

Will I have access to a telephone which can accommodate long distance calls by using a phone card? Will there be Internet access?

Internet is available in the site of the orientation.

Will there be participants from other AFS countries attending the orientation? If so, from which countries and approximately how many participants?

You will be approximately 135 students from sixteen different countries (Austria, Belgium Flanders, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and the United States).

Have a safe trip to Costa Rica! PURA VIDA