



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

AFS NZ Host Family Agreement 2015

Our family agrees to host an AFS Exchange participant. We agree to a home interview with an AFS representative.

As a host Family we have a right to expect:

- o That the AFS participant will receive orientation and understand the rules of AFS.
- o That we will receive a copy of the Host Family Handbook to prepare us for the hosting experience
- o There will be a support person available who will liaise with us on a monthly basis.
- o We will have access to AFS staff at all times via the emergency 24 hour number.

As a Host Family we agree to:

1. Provide a safe and nurturing environment and treat the participant as a member of our family in accordance with NZ law.
2. Provide the participant with his or her own bed (not a convertible or inflatable bed), adequate storage space for the participants clothes and personal belongings, reasonable access to bathroom facilities, study space, if not, otherwise available in the house and reasonable unimpeded access to the outside of the house in the event of a fire or other emergency.
3. Ensure that if the participant shares a bedroom, it is with non-adult individuals of the same gender.
4. Provide the participant with three quality meals per day (includes lunches).
5. Provide access to a fully functioning telephone and access to email in our home that the participant may use to contact his/her natural parents and/or in the event of an emergency.
6. Attend AFS orientations and activities held for host families as appropriate.
7. Ensure that our family is available to be in contact with the designated AFS volunteer once a month.
8. Help our participant have a successful experience in the school, our family, our community and seek help from the AFS support person, if we or the participant are experiencing difficulties.
9. Always notify the AFS support person (or, in the event the support person is not available, AFS staff) in a timely manner if:
 - a) Our family and/or the participant is/are away from home for more than 24 hours and provide contact details in case of an emergency.
 - b) A serious issue arises, including but not limited to: serious illness, injury, or hospitalization, arrest or detention by the authorities. Any violation of AFS rules regarding driving, hitchhiking, or use of illegal drugs; or potentially harmful behaviour including alcohol consumption.
 - c) We learn that our participant has had unexcused absences from school, has missed classes, or is having other academic problems.
 - d) There are any material changes in the status of our family, including but not limited to, change in address, finances or employment, or criminal charges or arrest of the participant or any member of our household.

As a host family, we understand and accept that:

1. We are not allowed to host an AFS Participant to whom we are related.
2. The participant will come with spending money for optional activities or purchases during the exchange period.

3. We are not the legal guardians of the participant.
4. We may sign forms for school-related activities by crossing out the words “Parent/Guardian” and writing in “Host Family” to make the relationship clear.
5. We must work through the proper AFS channels to obtain the signature of the natural parents or guardians in the participant’s home country for any other documents requiring natural parent or legal guardian signature.
6. AFS has the sole responsibility for determining host family placements.
7. AFS will assist our family and participant in having a successful hosting experience. However, AFS volunteers have the authority to move the participant to another family if the AFs volunteer or AFS Staff believes that in doing so it is in the best interests of the participant and/or in the best interests of our family.
8. AFS is an academic programme and participants are required to attend school, complete assignments, and abide by all school policies.
9. Host Families and participants are not authorized to act as agents for AFS for any purpose.
10. AFS does not carry liability insurance for individual participants or host families and is not responsible for claims for damages or injuries.

As a host family we understand the AFS participant is covered by the AFS Participant Medical Plan. The AFS Participant Medical plan does not cover the following:

- a) Non- accident related dental care.
- b) Routine eye exams, glasses or contact lenses.
- c) Routine physicals, preventative care, vaccinations and immunizations.
- d) Pre-existing conditions.

If the participant requires care as above that is not covered by the AFS Participant Medical Plan, we will notify our AFS support person who will arrange for natural family consent and payment. We will ensure our AFS participant has a copy of the AFS “Haere Mai, Welcome to NZ” student handbook, which we will be provided with.

In signing this agreement we confirm that all information and statements given in the AFS Host Family Application and any additional supplemental information provided to AFS is completely accurate and true to the best of our knowledge.

We understand that the execution of this agreement does not result in, either implicitly or explicitly, an employment contract and we agree that our participation in AFS is strictly as volunteers under this agreement.

Host Parent names _____

Signature/s _____ Date _____

(Both signatures are required for two parent families)

