



## POLICES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN OUR HOMESTAY PROGRAM

We have developed these policies to facilitate a smooth and enjoyable experience for all of our participants and families. We have many cultures and personalities blending in our Homestay situations. The impact of our personal habits and cultural dynamics is important to our success. The program requires English as your primary language, and the success of the program requires your understanding of the rules and your cooperation with your host family.

- **Only English shall be spoken in the home at meals or in the presence of your host family members.**
- **Rooms are to be kept clean. They should be cleaned weekly. Your host will instruct you on what they expect and how to do this. Trash must be disposed of properly and removed from the room weekly. Cleaning Fees will be charged should a tenant not maintain a clean environment and can be deducted from your deposit when required.**
- Honor “quiet hours” between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am. The use of the radio or TV should respect others not participating and sound should be confined to your immediate surroundings.
- If you are expected for dinner, inform your host, prior to 3pm, if you will not be present at the dinner meal.
- Each host family may have special house rules that they have developed with Homestay. You must follow these rules.
- The bathrooms should be left clean and ready for the following user. Your host may provide shower cleaner to use after each shower. Personal toiletries are to be kept in your room as you would if you were in a dormitory at VT unless the host provides a specific storage area in the bathroom. Water should never be left standing on the bathroom floor for any reason.
- Kitchen privileges may be provided by the host through the contract from Homestay. You should be attentive to cleaning up the kitchen utensils, dishes and putting food away if this is part of the home stay in order to continue with this privilege. **Open food containers** should not be kept in your room as they draw ants and insects. Your host shall instruct you in their expectations in the kitchen.
- All food should be consumed in the dining or kitchen area unless otherwise allowed by your host. If you eat outside the kitchen, all dishes should be returned to the kitchen shortly after use. Any dishes used during breakfast should be put into the dishwasher or cleaned before leaving the house unless you are otherwise directed by your host.
- You should be aware and respectful to modify your daily behavior as it relates to noise interruptions, such as loud telephone conversations at night or in the early morning, slamming doors in the home or heavy stepping on the stairs. Many people are very light sleepers and require a quiet night.
- Water usage should be conserved with short showers, turning off water during teeth brushing and selecting the appropriate wash level for laundry loads. One shower a day, not more than 15 minutes is calculated in our fee. Laundry should be done on a cold water selection with a full load; however, you should not overload the washer or dryer with too many clothing items or bedding. Washing single items is strongly discouraged in consideration of the family’s utility bill. Ask your host for instructions on using the laundry equipment.
- Many localities in Virginia require recycling. For example, the Town of Blacksburg requires the recycling of **plastics, newspaper, glass and paper** of all types. You are required to sort and recycle with the family.
- The use of candles, plug-ins, incense or fragrant sprays in the home is not allowed as many people are allergic. Personal perfumes must be used sparingly while in the home.

- Use electricity conservatively. If you are provided with a space heater it must not be left unattended. You may not leave it on while you are at school. You should plan to wear sweaters in cold weather.
- If you are taking advantage of our meal program, dinner will be available to you as the family normally dines. Generally, this will be a “hot sit-down” dinner with everyone in the family and sometimes it will be prepared by your host ahead of time and available in the refrigerator for you to reheat as schedules may require. You must let your host know if you are not going to eat with them, in advance of any night that you plan to miss as they are planning for you.
- For our students of Islam, meals **may** be prepared for students during Ramadan during regular meal hours and reserved for later consumption if the student’s meal hour is later than the family’s mealtime. In this case, the student is to be responsible to heat up the meal and serve themselves. Most families DO NOT typically prepare Halal Meat.
- Many of our host families work and must take overnight trips. They may also take short vacations during your stay. During this time, your host will instruct you on the meals available to you during their absence.
- Smoking is only allowed outside of the home so that smoke will not enter the home. Some homes only accept non-smokers. **There is a fee of \$100 charged to any student that smokes in a non-smoking home.**
- You will be responsible to contact the coordinator, Mary Ann Lentz, for extensions and to make payments. Homestay extensions **MUST** be requested 30 days prior to the end of your current contract. Extension fees are required in advance of the start of the new contract. A late fee of \$100 will be added to your amount due when payments are made more than 5 days after the due date.
- You will be charged for your entire Homestay period while your personal belongings remain in the home even though you may leave to take a break or vacations. Meal credits will not be issued by Blacksburg Homesay. Storing personal belongings in a homestay is not permitted outside of the contract period.
- Large sums of money should be placed in your bank account and not kept at your Homestay residence unless in the form of travelers checks.
- Family members are not permitted to stay with their children in the homestay.
- There shall be **no overnight guests without the permission of your host family AND the host coordinator**. We have an open door policy. When entertaining friends of the opposite sex your door must be open at all times. If overnight guests are approved, you will need to pay \$30 for each night, in advance.
- **A \$50 fee will be charged for all returned checks.**
- **A \$100 early termination fee will be charged for all early terminations or transfers during the contract period.**
- **A \$100 Fee applies when making any changes to your contract after the signature date.**

**AS STATED IN YOUR CONTRACT, HOMESTAY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE A CONTRACT WITH NO REFUND OR RELOCATE A STUDENT TO ANOTHER HOMESTAY FOR NOT FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES, HOMESTAY HOUSE RULES OR DISRESPECTING THE HOMESTAY HOSTS OR OTHER PERSONS IN THE HOME.**

**These guidelines will be revised from time-to-time and you are responsible for complying with the most current version of the guidelines. We will provide a copy of any revised guidelines online at our website, [blacksburghomestay.com](http://blacksburghomestay.com).**

If you have any questions about home living expectations please talk to your host family or call Mary Ann Lentz at the Homestay office, 540-552-1149.