



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
*STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS*

# Host Family Information 2010

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## INFORMATION FOR HOST FAMILIES

### GENERAL

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Like every year, many American “Student Ambassadors” will come to Europe and look forward to spending 3 days at European families in the summer of 2010.

Founded by American President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, the “PEOPLE TO PEOPLE” Organization sends American students to Europe, Australia, and Asia every year during the months of June through August. The aim of these journeys is to introduce the students not only to other cultures, but also to the every day life of the particular country they are visiting. An important element of these educational trips are the homestays with a host family. This gives the students a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about the culture and the lifestyle of the host country and to make friends that will last a lifetime.

Each Student Ambassador must undergo a selection process that requires school references and a personal interview. Students must prepare for the three-week program. At least 12 classroom hours of orientation are required for each Student Ambassador.

A homestay with a host family is scheduled for 3 nights. During that time the young Americans should be considered a family member and be treated as such. The European family should have at least one child of the same sex and of the approximate age of the visiting Student Ambassador. On the part of the host family no lavish program is required. Even though the time of the stay is short, many homestays have led to life-long friendships.

The European children themselves profit from having an English native speaker in the house and learning something about the lifestyle of another continent.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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One travel group consists of about **40-45 participants from the ages of 11-14 (junior groups) and 15-18 (high school groups)**, and is accompanied by at least 3 American teachers.

The homestays with a family are scheduled for **3 nights between the months from June to August, 2010.**

The homestay families do not have to come from the same village. They just have to pick up the students on a certain day at a given time and a specific location.

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE HOMESTAY**

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A homestay with a host family is an important element of the Student Ambassador Program. The purpose of the homestay is to introduce students to the culture and lifestyle of the host country. A short stay with a family (3 nights) can often provide experiences that will last a lifetime, giving the student a clear understanding of the cultural differences between Europe and America.

## **RULES FOR STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

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1. While staying with a host family, the Student Ambassador is expected to help with household chores and act as a member of the family.
2. Students must ask permission to use the host family's telephone and are responsible for paying any telephone charges that may arise. If necessary, feel free to explain that all calls are charged, even local calls.
3. A Student Ambassador is not allowed to smoke.
4. Student Ambassadors are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages at any time.
5. Student Ambassadors may not operate any motor vehicles, including motorbikes and scooters.
6. Students are not allowed to go out alone during free time. Students should not be out late at night, and host families may impose an evening curfew.

## **GUIDELINES FOR HOST FAMILIES**

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- Ideally, a host family should have at least one child of the same sex and of the approximate age of the visiting Student Ambassador.
- To ensure the student's safety, an adult member of the host family should pick up the student at the beginning of the home stay or, if the students will be riding the school bus home, there should be an adult at home when they arrive.
- The host family environment should be safe, clean, and comfortable. All Student Ambassadors require individual beds during their stay.
- Meals should be offered at the times of day that are normal for the host family. Students should be encouraged to share all meals.
- Telephone access to the Group Leaders and local Homestay Coordinators must be available. A telephone located in the home is preferred. When Group Leaders make calls, they will reimburse the host family for calls made from the home.
- All students should be allowed to phone their delegation leader or delegation manager at least once during the homestay, if they request to do so. (In the US, local calls are free. You may explain that each call, even local calls are charged. We expect students to offer to pay the local fee for their calls.)
- Family activities outside the home are encouraged in order to expose Student Ambassadors to the typical daily life of the host family. For example, students can be taken on daily shopping trips, to schools, to visit the mother or father at the workplace, or on local sightseeing trips. If the host family attends religious services, students may attend as well.
- Host parents must be willing to accept responsibility for the safety of the Student Ambassador whom they host. ***Student Ambassadors should not be left unsupervised within the home. Students should have access to the home or other suitable base, such as a school, at all times during the stay.*** Host families may impose an evening curfew to their Student Ambassador since the students are not allowed to be out late at night. ***Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any time.***

## **HISTORY OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**

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The history of the Student Ambassador Program dates back to 1956 when U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a man of vision and integrity, accepted the mantle of leadership of the United States. In 1956, the state of world politics was at a crossroads. The Cold War was gaining momentum in a world divided by ideology. Nations were stockpiling weapons of mass destruction at an alarming rate and the world itself seemed to be careening toward another global armed conflict. President Eisenhower believed that the only way to prevent another conflict was to build international understanding one person at a time. He believed, “the people want peace. Indeed, I believe they want peace so badly that the governments will just have to step aside and let them have it.”

This belief inspired President Eisenhower to call a special conference of 100 American civic leaders, including Walt Disney, Conrad Hilton, Jesse Owens, and Norman Rockwell. He asked these civilian leaders to help him start a program called “People to People” which would put ordinary American citizens in contact with citizens from other lands. He believed that people could find common ground if they visited each other’s homes, schools, and communities. This knowledge would eliminate the misunderstandings, misperceptions, and suspicions born from fear of things unknown.

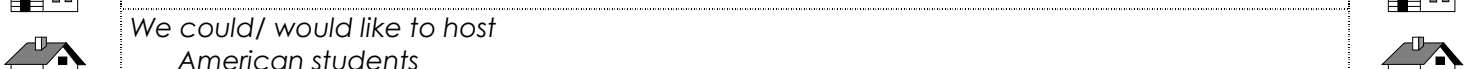
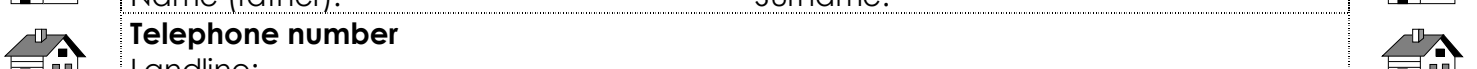
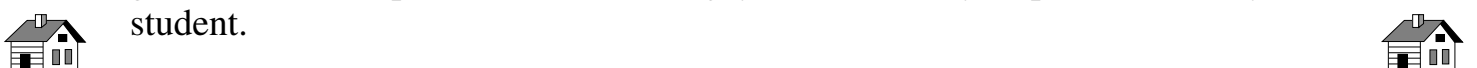
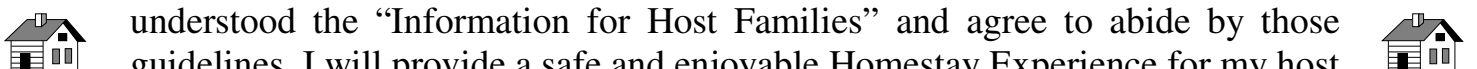
In 1963, the first delegation of Student Ambassadors went forth, forging new friendships. Shortly after the first delegation of students returned, inspired by the goals and aspirations of People to People, Walt Disney opened the timeless attraction “It’s a Small World” at Disneyland.

From that time forward, the *Student Ambassador Program* has taken thousands of young Americans across international boundaries. Through that time, the White House has continued to be a strong supporter of *People to People programs*. President's Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton have served as Honorary Chairman of *People to People International*.

The aim of the *People to People Student Ambassador Program* is to give students a greater understanding of people throughout the world. This is accomplished through an exciting program of educational activities that acquaint students with the political, economic, and cultural characteristics of the countries visited.

In coordinating home stays you fulfil the key mission of *People to People Student Ambassador programs*. In the generosity of opening your homes to our American youth - representing your own region at the same time - our students see the future full of hope, courage and with the promise of peace.

**Through this experience, we hope you will make new friends and memories that will surely remain with you the rest of your life!**



# PRINCIPLES OF A SUCCESSFUL HOMESTAY

## 2010



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STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Homestay Host) agree to act as a Homestay Host for the People to People Student Ambassador Program. I have read and understood the "Information for Host Families" and agree to abide by those guidelines. I will provide a safe and enjoyable Homestay Experience for my host student.

**School:**  
**Teacher:**  
**Student**

**Name:**  
**Surname:**

**Address of the student**  
Street, lane, Nr.:

Zip code/ City:

**Date of birth**

**Names of the parents**

Name (mother): Surname:  
Name (father): Surname:

**Telephone number**

Landline:  
Mobile:

**Email**

**Pets**

We could/ would like to host  
\_\_\_ American students

Period:



**PARENTS DECLARATION**



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Due to new requirements regarding the security of the hosting of children, we would be grateful if you could please complete the declaration below. We are counting on you for your understanding:

We, Mr. and Mrs.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Solemnly swear that there is no one living in our home, which has been convicted of, or is involved in the process of a case relating to a crime involving a minor.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR HOMESTAY CO-ORDINATOR!**