

HOMESTAY APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application Deadlines:
Fall Semester...July 1st
Spring semester...November 1st

If you would like to be part of the Sierra College Homestay program, please follow the instructions below. Your application will not be processed until it is complete.

- 1. Complete all pages of the application form.**
- 2. Complete Rules & Agreement Form for Minors, if applicable.**
- 3. Write a letter to your host family telling them about yourself and attach a recent photo(s).**
- 4. Enclose application processing fee payment of \$299**
- 5. Mail or fax the above documents to:**

Sierra College International Students Office
Attn: Homestay Advisor
5000 Rocklin Road
Rocklin, CA 95677
Fax: (916) 789-2922

SIERRA COLLEGE

LIVING IN A HOMESTAY

Sierra College makes every effort to be fair and equitable to both hosts and students. Both parties are required to read and agree to all Homestay guidelines. Please consider the information below carefully, to ensure you are willing and able to fully participate in our Homestay program.

It is assumed that one placement per student will be made. Students requesting to change homes may be subject to an additional placement fee. If Sierra College accepts you, the placement fee is non-refundable.

At the time of arrival host families will try to welcome students into their home, but students should be prepared to take a shuttle or taxi from the airport and to stay in a hotel temporarily if a family is unavailable.

Priority placement will be given to incoming international students. Continuing international students that desire to change their living situation are encouraged to move into an apartment or other rental opportunity.

Although all attempts will be made to promote positive host/student relationships, Sierra College is not responsible for the lifestyle, behavior, or philosophy (religious affiliation) of the host.

After a host has been selected for you, we will notify you of their contact details.

Homestay Commitment

We expect students to stay in their Homestay at least one academic semester in order to be fair to hosts. **This is not a temporary arrangement until the student finds another accommodation, etc. You owe and must pay your rent for the next thirty (30) days on the day each month which is the date you moved in.** A daily rate of \$20 per night applies for days you reside in the homestay of less than a month. If you decide to move out at the end of the semester you must give your host 20 days notice. If you do not give 20 days notice you will have to pay a full month's rent.

Family Life

What makes up a family in the United States may be similar to a traditional family in your own country, or it may be very different. We have hosts from various ethnic groups, socioeconomic levels, religions, and lifestyles. Although we are committed to making appropriate and comfortable Homestay matches, we cannot accommodate requests for hosts of a specific racial background, of a specific religion, with a specific number of children, or any other characteristic. Part of your experience in the U.S. is to be open to experiencing our cultural diversity.

Homes

Just as there are different hosts, there are many different kinds of homes. Some homes are large and elegant; some are small and quite modest. Some homes may be close to the college and some further away. Some hosts live in apartments. No matter the home, all students are provided with a private room with a window, chest of drawers, desk, chair, adequate lighting, bed, bedding and closet.

Rules

Rules are in place to provide you with clear expectations so that you can enjoy a pleasant stay. Your host will explain the house rules when you arrive. These rules could include what chores each household member is responsible for, whether you can invite your friends over, and how late you can receive phone calls. Most students seem to adapt easily to their hosts' lifestyles. In

general, be respectful and know you are expected to follow your host's rules as a member of the family. Please note the following:

- You are responsible to pay for all your long distance phone calls. Your host may or may not allow you to use their telephone line for the Internet, but may allow you to set up a separate line to do so. Some hosts may already have a separate phone line in your room.
- Students generally are not allowed to use the hosts' computer.
- Smoking is not allowed in most homes. If you are a smoker, and your host doesn't allow you to smoke in their home, they may ask you to smoke away from the house.
- By being a member of the family, you may be asked to help with small household chores, such as helping with dishes, vacuuming, and cleaning up after yourself.

Responsibilities of students– Students living in Homestay are responsible for their own transportation, the Homestay fees, and for following procedures for moving in and out of Homestay. Following are additional guidelines:

- Nearly all students walk, ride a bicycle, ride the bus or have a personal vehicle for transportation to school. Your host is not responsible for providing your transportation.
- Rental amounts are as follows: You are responsible for paying your host a monthly stipend of \$700 for Traditional Homestay or \$500 for Room & Kitchen Access. In addition, upon arrival, you must pay the host \$150 for the refundable security deposit.
- Once you move in with a host, it is your responsibility to contact the Sierra College Homestay Advisor if you have any questions, concerns or problems. Remember, you must give the host 20 days notice prior to moving out at the end of the semester. If you do not, the host is entitled to an entire months rent *and* your security deposit. **At this time you must also file a “20 Day Leave of Notice” form and an “Exit Survey” with the Homestay Advisor’s office.** Forms are available in the International Students Office or on-line at:
<http://www.sierracollege.edu/Programs/internationalStu/housing.html>.
- When departing you must return your host's key, provide your new contact information for forwarding mail and phone calls, and leave your room as clean as you originally found it. You are responsible for any damages you cause at your Homestay.

Student's Personal Property The student's personal property is not the responsibility of Sierra College or the host family. Any lost or stolen personal property of the student, including lost or stolen money, which is not covered by an insurance policy, is the responsibility of the student. **Students are required to establish a bank account separate from that of their host family.**

Code of Conduct

All students enrolled at Sierra College assume the obligation to observe the guidelines of the Sierra College Student Handbook. Stated in general terms, the student has the obligation to:

- Maintain high standards of academic and professional honesty and integrity.
- Respect the rights, privileges and property of other members of the academic community and visitors to campus, refraining from actions that would interfere with the college's functions or endanger the health, safety or welfare of other persons, on or off campus.
- Comply with the rules and regulations of the college, local, state and federal governments.

Students must recognize that Homestay is a Sierra College facilitated living arrangement, and as such, the Student Responsibilities outlined in the **Sierra College Student Handbook also applies to all student activity within the Homestay environment.** Sierra College's Associate Dean of Student Services oversees disciplinary action for violation(s) of the Code.

Homestay Options

Traditional Homestay – Monthly stipend of \$700

If you choose the “Traditional” option, your food will be provided. You will be provided with some prepared meals each week. You will be expected to prepare all other meals for yourself using the food provided by your host. Other expenses such as bus fare, toiletries, long distance phone use, Internet installation and other personal items are *not* included in the stipend. Your monthly payment is due each month on the date you moved in.

Room and Kitchen Access – Monthly stipend of \$500

If you choose the “Room and Kitchen Access” option, you will be expected to buy your own food and prepare your own meals. Other expenses such as bus fare, toiletries, long distance phone use, internet installation and other personal items are *not* included in the stipend. Your monthly payment is due each month on the date you moved in.

Total Homestay Costs

- **Application Fee** – \$299 A \$299 application fee is due with the Homestay application. The fee is refundable *only* if a Homestay cannot be found for the student. Included in the application fee is a background check for each adult resident in the host home, a home visit by College staff and review of application for compatibility. Please send the fee using the following payment options:
 - Wire transfer (contact us for specifics)
 - MasterCard or visa (contact us for specifics)
 - Cashier’s check, money order, or check drawn on a U.S. bank payable to Sierra College
Do Not Send Cash
- **Security/Damage Deposit** – \$150 A \$150 security deposit is due from the student upon moving in. The deposit is refundable to the student within 30 days after departure, *if* there are no unpaid bills or damages *and* proper notice (as per Host Family – Student agreement) is given before moving out.

Vacation Policy

Students who wish to go out of town while they are living in Homestay are offered a reduction in their monthly stipend payment **if they are planning on being away for more than 15 nights**. For absences of 15 nights or less, there is no reduction in payment due. For absences of more than 15 nights, the monthly stipend is reduced 50%, but only for the nights that the student is away. These absences must be prearranged with the host family, and plans must be agreeable to both parties. For more information, or if you have questions, contact the International Students Office or the Homestay Advisor.

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Homestay Application

What semester will you begin your study?

Fall 20__ Spring 20__

Homestay option you prefer:

Traditional (All food included)
 Room Only (No food included) Either

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Male Female
Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Nationality _____

Current Address:

Street Address _____
City, State, Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Permanent Address (if different than above):

Street Address _____
City, State, Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Agency Involved With Placement (If applicable):

Agent's Name and Agency _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Emergency Contact:

Name and Relationship _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

General Homestay Information Continued...

Anticipated arrival in the U.S. Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

English Conversational Level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Current or Desired Occupation _____

What is your field of study or major? _____

Do you have any of the following?

	YES	NO	DESCRIBE IF YOU CHECKED YES
Health Problems	_____	_____	_____
Physical Handicaps	_____	_____	_____
Food Allergies	_____	_____	_____
Animal Allergies	_____	_____	_____

Are you taking medication(s)? YES NO DESCRIBE: _____

What language(s) do you speak? _____

Father's occupation: _____

Mother's occupation: _____

Names of brothers & sisters and their ages: _____

What type of family do you prefer: (You may check more than one)

- Single Host (no children at home)
- Family with teenagers (over 12 years old)
- Single parent with children at home
- Family with no children
- Family with small children (under 12 years old)

I would like to live in a home that is:

- Quiet
- Busy, Active
- Sometimes busy, Sometime quiet

How do you keep your home?

- Clean/Neat
- Comfortable
- Messy/Not Clean

Would you be comfortable with:

- A family that owns a dog? Yes No No preference
- A family that owns a cat? Yes No No preference

General Homestay Information Continued...

Do you smoke? YES NO (Most hosts do not allow smoking in their home)

Do you want to spend a lot of time with your host like a son or daughter? YES NO

Do you drink alcohol? YES NO

Are there any foods that you cannot eat? YES NO

If yes, what foods: _____

Do you have a car? YES NO

Do you plan to get a car? YES NO

Do you play musical instrument(s)? YES NO

If so, what instrument(s)? _____

How long do you plan to live with a host? _____

Do you have any strong personal beliefs that should be considered regarding your placement with a family? _____

Please check all hobbies and activities that you like to do:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing/Snow Boarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & card games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> American Football | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga | <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | |

Other: _____

Please keep in mind that all of your requests may not be met. We will try our best to place you with a host that will match most of your needs.

I have read and understand the information provided in the Homestay application packet. I understand that by signing this application, I am responsible for the rules outlined in Sierra College's Homestay program and I agree to participate in the Homestay program to the best of my ability. The information I have provided in my application is truthful and accurate. I give Sierra College permission to share information provided on my application with my prospective host.

(SIGNATURE & DATE)

____ Enclosed check or money order for \$299.00 USD made payable to Sierra College

Photo/Model Release

I hereby give Sierra College and the Sierra College Photographer permission to use photographs taken of me. I understand that Sierra College and the Photographer will determine the ways in which these photographs will be reproduced including but not limited to publications, displays, advertising, exhibitions and other uses. I understand that I will receive no monetary payment now or in the future for the reproduction of these photographs.

**Student Name (printed)
Year)**

Student Signature

Date (Month / Day /

If the student is a minor (under 18 years of age) a parent or guardian signature is required.

Legal Guardian Name (printed)

Guardian Signature

Date (Month / Day / Year)

RULES, AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FOR MINORS

Sierra College Homestay Program Required for all students under age 18

This document has legal significance. Please Read Carefully.

The undersigned Sierra College student and the student's natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian, agree to the following rules:

1. Students must obey the local, state and federal laws. Drinking alcohol is prohibited until age 21. Smoking and purchasing cigarettes is prohibited until age 18. Illegal drugs are prohibited for persons of any age, and students should not be associated with anyone involved with illegal drugs in any way.
2. Students under the age of 18 must get approval from the host family for all activities. At all times, the host family must know where the student is, with whom, and when the student will return.
3. Students must obey the house rules, and respect the property of the host family.
4. Students and natural parents must respect decisions made by Sierra College officials.

In addition to the foregoing, the undersigned student and the student's natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) acknowledge(s) certain facts and release(s) Sierra College and the student's host family, as follows:

1. **Student's Personal Property.** The student's personal property is not the responsibility of Sierra College or the host family. Any lost or stolen personal property of the student, including lost or stolen money, which is not covered by an insurance policy, is the responsibility of the student and the student's natural parent(s) and/or guardian(s). **Students are required to establish a bank account separate from that of their host family.**
2. **Insurance.** Any medical expenses or lost/stolen property or damage not covered by applicable insurance of the student is the responsibility of the natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the student.
 - a. **Medical Insurance.** Neither Sierra College nor the host family is responsible for any medical expenses incurred by the student. **The student must obtain medical insurance coverage for the term of his/her stay.** *Please note: Many medical insurance policies exclude coverage for "pre-existing conditions" (that is a medical condition that exists prior to the commencement of the insurance policy. Additionally, many such policies do not cover psychiatric care or any related expenses.*

The student will be covered by the following medical insurance while living in Homestay:

_____ Medical insurance purchased prior to arrival

_____ Medical insurance available for purchase upon arrival at Sierra College

- b. **Property and Liability Insurance.** Neither Sierra College nor the host family is responsible for any property damaged or destroyed by the student or for any liability that results from the student's activities while enrolled at Sierra College. The natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the student is (are) responsible for any damage or destruction of property or any injury to persons inflicted or caused by the student while living with the host family and/or enrolled at Sierra College.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

In addition to the foregoing, the natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) agree to the following:

PERMISSION FOR MEDICAL CARE and RELEASE:

I (we), as the applicant’s natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), GIVE TO Sierra College, its officers, employees, agents and host families full authority and permission to take whatever action they feel is reasonably warranted under the circumstances, and to act as an agent of the undersigned student and parent’s guardian, regarding the named student’s health and safety. This authority and permission includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: Rendering or ordering medical treatment; the giving of medication and any examinations, x-rays, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment or hospital care, if and as deemed necessary. The undersigned understand that a reasonable attempt will be made to contact the undersigned parent/guardian before any action is taken. The undersigned agree to be financially responsible for all medical attentions so authorized or ordered during the student’s attendance at Sierra College.

The undersigned represent that the named student has no medical restriction that limits his/her full participation in the programs and activities of Sierra College, except as disclosed in any writing attached to this document. Permission is given for the student to participate in all activities offered at Sierra College, except as restricted in any attached writing.

To the fullest extent of the law, the undersigned hereby releases Sierra College, its officers, employees, agents, and host families from all liability, and waive and release all claims, related to or arising from such decisions or actions as may be taken under the authority of this document.

Natural Father/Legal Guardian:

Natural Father/Legal Guardian

Address (Street Address / City / State / Postal Code / Country)

Phone

E-mail

Signature of Natural Father/Legal Guardian

Date (Month / Day / Year)

Natural Mother/Legal Guardian:

Natural Mother/Legal Guardian

Address (Street Address / City / State / Postal Code / Country)

Phone

E-mail

Signature of Natural Mother/Legal Guardian

Date (Month / Day / Year)

Homestay Application – Certification Addendum

I _____ (print name) am applying for the Sierra College International Student Homestay Program, and make the following certifications and promises as part of my application:

1. Throughout my participation in the program I will adhere to the College’s Code of Conduct as set forth in the Sierra College Student Handbook and in documents provided to me by the Homestead Program.

2. I will respect the privacy and private property of the Homestead family with whom I will be staying and will not damage such property, or use such property without permission of an adult member of the family. I understand my obligation to follow all applicable laws regarding the use of illegal drugs and, if I am under the age of 21, regarding the use of alcohol.

3. I understand and agree that the Program and the College do not guarantee or insure the background or safeness of the Homestead family or the dwelling where I will be staying, and that I alone am responsible for my decision to participate. I therefore **WAIVE, AND RELEASE THE COLLEGE FROM, ANY CLAIM I MIGHT HAVE IN THE EVENT I AM INJURED OR MY PROPERTY IS DAMAGED OR STOLEN WHILE AT MY HOMESTEAD DWELLING.**

4. In the event I encounter any difficulty with the Homestead family which I am unable to resolve on my own I will contact the Program Coordinator at the College and report my circumstances. I also understand that I can report any crime directly to the local police.

DATED: _____

_____ (Print name)

_____ (Signature)