

First Night Questions With Your Host Family

These questions are suggestions only. You and your host family should discuss anything that you think is important. We suggest you discuss the items most important to you as soon as possible. When you are in a new place with not much language skill, it is best not to assume anything; it is better to ask.

The simplest questions may be the most important, such as "where is the bathroom"? You can come back to other questions as they seem necessary.

Should I call you "Mom", "Dad", or use your first names, or something else?

What is the best telephone number to reach you? Home number? Cell number?

May I call you at work?

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Is there a general emergency telephone number in this area (city/state/nation)?

Is there a special number to report a fire? To get the police?

How do I contact you in an emergency if I am home alone? If I am away from the home?

Is there another family member or friend that I can call in an emergency?

Does the house (or neighborhood) have a fire/smoke alarm? What does it sound like?

How do we leave the house if there is a fire? Where should we go?

How do I get medical help if I am injured?

Transportation:

Is there public transportation nearby? Am I safe to use it alone? Is there a youth/student ticket (pass)?

Are there areas of the town/city that I should avoid? Is it different in the day or night?

May I ride with friends who drive cars?

How will I get school every day?

HOME ACTIVITIES

Bathroom:

May I use the family's soap, shampoo, toothpaste – or do I buy my own?

Where should I keep my bathroom accessories (razors, hair dryer, brushes, other)

Is there anything special about using the bathroom that I should know? (ventilation / heat / hot water)?

Laundry:

Do I wash my own clothes? (If so, how do I use the washing machine?)

Is there a particular day/time for doing the laundry?

Is there a place to put dirty clothes and bedding until they are to be washed?

My Bedroom:

Please show me what closets/cabinets/drawers I should use for my clothes and other personal things.

May I put pictures or posters on the walls of my room? How should I fasten them?

May I rearrange the furniture in the bedroom?

Is there anything special about cleaning my room (rugs/carpet/floor/windows) that I should know?

Where should I store my suitcases?

Computer, Internet, and Entertainment:

Is there Wi-Fi in the house? Is there a cost for data time? Is a password necessary?

Do you have rules for my Internet use?

Do you have rules for my use of my own computer/tablet/smartphone (where and/or when allowed)?

May I use the family TV and/or other electronic equipment (music/video/games)?

Are there rules for the use of the home telephone? May I make International calls from the home phone?

Daily Activities:

What time should I get up on school days? on weekends or holidays?

What do I do about lunches at school? (If there is a cost, who pays?)

Do you expect me to come straight home from school?

What time do you expect me to go to my bedroom on school nights?

If I go out with friends, what time do you expect me home on school nights? On weekends?

May I bring friends to the house? After school? Weekends?

May I bring friends to the house when no one else is home?

May I have friends stay overnight?

May I entertain friends in my room? (Any special rules?)

Mealtimes:

When are the regular mealtimes? Are weekend mealtimes different than work/school days?

Do we eat breakfast together?

Do I have any responsibilities at mealtimes (set or clear the table, help clean the dishes, or other)?

Does the family remain at the table for conversation after meals?

May I help myself to food/snacks or drinks at any time, or should I ask first?

May I use the kitchen appliances (stove/oven/microwave/teapot/dishwasher)?

Personal:

Do you have expectations for me about going to church or other religious institution?

Is smoking allowed in the house?

Are there any habits that you especially dislike? (gum chewing/ types of music/ being late)?

How do you feel about cell phone use (talk or text) during family time?

May I go shopping by myself? Would you like me to go shopping with you?

Are there daily chores/tasks that I am *expected* to help with?

Is there anything else I can do around the house to help? (Inside or in the yard)

Am I expected to attend Rotary meetings? How often, and how do I get there?

If I have a problem with a family member, what should I do? (Examples below):

- 1) Write a note to you, explaining it?
- 2) Ask to talk "face-to face"?
- 3) Talk with my Rotary Counselor?
- 4) Be quiet and "live with it"

Is there anything else we should talk about now?