

# International Homestay Program

Information for Homestay students – Minor: Under 18 years | Adult: Age 18 years and above

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## International students will:

- Experience family living in the U.S.
  - Establish relationships with Americans
  - Increase their proficiency in English
- Each homestay family has successfully completed an application form, home inspection, personal interview and background check. Every effort is made to match students with the family most appropriate for them. Our homestay program is managed on-campus and the college receives no homestay funds except the student's initial application fee.

## Social and Family Interaction

Homestay families encourage interaction and invite students to join them in occasional family activities. Homestay is not simply a room and board arrangement. Homestay families are respectful of your religious or nonreligious beliefs, culture and values. Students are expected to be respectful toward them as well. Although a mutual exchange of ideas, beliefs and values is encouraged, no one will pressure students to adopt their beliefs and values.

### Accommodations

Students are placed in a comfortable, clean home and provided with the essentials, including private sleeping accommodations, bathing facilities and a quiet place to study. Homestay families also provide necessary household items, including a furnished bedroom, bed/bedding, desk or table, lamp, dresser and closet, linens for the bed, and towels. Homestay families respect the student's right to privacy, including mail and bedroom space. Students are expected to practice the same courtesy toward the family.

### Internet

Free campus internet access is available to all CCS international students and all homestays provide internet access at no cost.

### Food

**Full Homestays:** Homestay families provide a variety of nutritional food for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks every day, including weekends. Students prepare their own breakfast and lunch from food the family provides, but most evenings a dinner meal is prepared by the family. Students are expected to tell their family if they have food allergies and foods they prefer to eat for breakfast and lunch. When families are occasionally away from home for work or vacation, prepared dinners will be available. Most families will not change their cooking style to accommodate students, but will welcome the student's input and make adjustments if possible. Students are expected to fit into their family's meal schedule if possible. If a sit-down dinner meal is not planned, food will be available for students to prepare for themselves. Students are responsible for providing their diet or allergy-sensitive food products. All students under age 18 must live in a Full Homestay, where the family provides all meals.

**Shared Homestays:** Students buy and prepare their own food and also clean up afterwards. Students are shown how to use the kitchen and where to store their food. Homestay families help students locate the nearest grocery store and offer to take students with them when they shop.

### Your Homestay Placement

Students are placed with the most appropriate family according to the information provided. The accuracy of each student's information will help us choose the best homestay family for students. Placement is not guaranteed. If we can't locate a family where students will be comfortable, we will refer them to other housing choices and refund their placement fee. To ensure their safety and promote their health, all students under age 18 must be placed with a family. There are no other housing choices.

### Housekeeping

Students are not asked to maintain the homestay family's house and yard or to babysit their children. Students are expected to maintain the cleanliness of the rooms they occupy/share and keep their belongings picked up in all areas of the home. Students are welcome to offer to help with general cleaning occasionally or help with the evening dinner clean up. If students have a shared homestay, they are expected to clean up after all their food preparation. If students have a private bathroom for their personal use only, they are expected to clean it weekly with cleaning products the family provides.

### Entertainment

We encourage homestay families to involve students in their activities as much as possible but students are responsible for the cost of their entertainment. If the family offers to pay the student's way, please feel free to accept. If students are invited to a family activity but the family is not paying, students may decline if they can't afford to pay.

### Smoking

For health reasons, homestay families do not allow smoking in their homes. A few families allow it outside of their home. If students smoke and plan to continue after their arrival, they should discuss this with the homestay manager before arrival or make other housing arrangements.

### Damage

If students damaged properties of the host families, students would be solely responsible for the cost of repair or replacement. We recommend that host families keep a receipt for the repairs and share the receipt with the students.

## Transportation

Homestay families are located in areas with safe and reasonable access to a bus route that offers service most days of the week, including evenings. Homestay families do not provide daily transportation to college but will assist students to become familiar with the bus system. Homestay families help students learn how to travel from their home to the college. Most bus travel will take 30 - 50 minutes from the bus stop until arrival at SCC or SFCC. Homestay families where students under age 18 are placed will ensure the student has safe transportation and will provide transportation occasionally when necessary.

## Rules/Curfews for Students

Students are obliged to follow the rules of their homestay family. However, we understand that students are 18 years of age or older and require flexibility. For students' protection and to alert the homestay family to situations in which you may need assistance, students should keep their homestay family informed of their schedule and whereabouts. Students under the age of 18 must inform their families of their schedule and whereabouts. Travel outside Spokane must be approved by the minor student's parents in writing and copies of this permission provided to the homestay family as well as the Homestay Program.

## Changing Homestays

If you are uncomfortable with your homestay and attempts to improve the situation are unsuccessful, you have the choice to move to a different homestay family at no additional cost. If, however, we determine that a student is incompatible with having a successful homestay experience, we may decline further homestay placements.

## Medical Care

Students are required to purchase medical insurance through the LowerMark insurance plan. Students are automatically enrolled when they register for classes. This insurance helps to protect the student from incurring high medical costs. The only exception is for students who have a Government Scholarship plan.

## Homestay Evaluations and Assistance

The homestay staff are available to meet with homestay students as needed. Homestay students receive the home and cell phone numbers of the homestay staff for use in emergency situations. Confidential surveys to monitor the quality of their homestay are sent to each student quarterly. Students are encouraged to freely communicate information about the quality of their homestay and meet with the homestay staff regularly. If a student is unhappy in their homestay and efforts to improve the situation are not successful, the student will be placed in a new homestay at no cost, unless a student is incompatible with having a successful homestay experience.

## Arrival in Spokane

Please send arrival information to the homestay staff as early as possible. When arrival information is received, arrangements will be made for each student's homestay family to meet the student at the airport. If a student's homestay family is unavailable, every effort will be made for the student to be met by someone from our International Programs staff. If student's arrival at the Spokane airport (GEG) is after 9 pm, the student is expected to stay in one of our suggested hotels until the next day, at which time, the homestay family will pick the student up. If a student under the age of 18 has no other choice but to arrive at the Spokane airport after 9pm, special arrangements must be made.

## Homestay Fees

Minor Placement: \$300 nonrefundable

Adult Placement: \$200 nonrefundable

### Full homestay, including food:

\$850 per month (*Minor*)

\$700 per month (*Adult*)

### Shared homestay, not including food:

\$400 per month (*Adult only*)

### Homestay per day rates:

Full: \$28.50 per day (*Minor*)

\$23.50 per day (*Adult*)

Shared: \$13.50 per day (*Adult only*)

*Note: Homestay fees include all utilities and internet use.*

## Apply

Complete the Homestay Application on our website.

### Community Colleges of Spokane Global Education Homestay Program

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Community Colleges of Spokane

Global Education

Spokane Community College  
Spokane Falls Community College