

Homestay Expectations

2 most important things: Integration and Communication: How do you do this?

Integration:

Try to be part of the family by:

- Engaging in conversations
- Talk about your home and country
- Be home for meals, dinner is a great time to connect with your host family
- If your host family invites you to activities you should go!

Communication:

Communication is the key to building trust and respect with your host family as they are responsible for you and are your parents while you are here.

Make sure your family knows where you are at all times, text or phone them to let them know:

Examples of texts:

- I'm planning to go to (location)
- I'm on Bus #_____ with (friend's name) and will be home at _____ o'clock.
- Is this ok?

Curfew: What time do you need to be home?

The Saanich International Student Program and your host parents are responsible for your safety and do expect you to be home by a certain time. Please discuss this with your host family to make sure you know what the expected time is and make sure you plan accordingly to get home before your curfew.

Everyday Important Stuff

Food:

- Talk to your host family about the foods you like and dislike.
- Go grocery shopping with them and show them what you would like.
- Talk to your host family about breakfast and lunch preparation.
- Share recipes from you home and country.
- Be home for dinner often.
- Be open to trying new foods.
- It's ok to politely let them know if you don't like something after you have tried it.

Manners:

Canadians are considered very polite and say “please” and “thank you” a lot. You are expected to adopt these habits while you are here. If you are unsure about how to be polite in a situation just ask, they’ll be happy to tell you. For instance even though host parents are expected to make dinner for you it is customary to thank the cook for the meal and let them know that you enjoyed it.

Showers, Laundry, Chores

Showers:

- Limit the length of time you shower to 10-15 minutes.
- Make sure you put the shower curtain inside the shower before starting the water.
- Clean up any water that gets on the floor.
- Do not shower late at night when your host family is trying to sleep.

Laundry:

Your host family will let you know how they would like to handle the laundry. Some will want to do your laundry for you and others will teach you how to do your own laundry. Do not do laundry late at night.

Chores:

Each homestay is different so make sure you discuss what chores you are expected to do.

Most homestays will ask students to:

- Help with the dishes
- Make the bed and tidy the bedroom
- Clean up after yourself in the kitchen and common areas
- Clean the student bathroom
- Do their own laundry

Heating and lights:

People in BC keep their homes quite cool, 20 degrees is normal for us. Please turn off the lights and heat when you are not in your room.

Computer and Internet Use:

Minimize the amount of downloading that you do. Host families may have to pay extra if you download too much, there is a limit per household.

Stop gaming and skypeing at an early hour, around 10:00 PM so you do not disturb the family members while they are trying to sleep.