

☎ PB (858) 412 6888 | SM (310) 933 3419 | VC (604) 685 0291

✉ admissions@englishcollege.com

📍 PB 945 Hornblend St, 2nd floor San Diego CA 92109

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VC 1190 Melville St, #300 Vancouver, BC V6E 3M3, Canada



## CEL HOMESTAY POLICIES

**Welcome to California! We are excited to welcome you!**

You chose to be in a host family to experience American culture and the way families live here. This is a great opportunity to exchange costumes and culture with them. Be open to all these new experiences and adventures!

**Please make sure to read this document carefully. If you have any questions, we are more than happy to assist you.**

## MUTUAL RESPECT

- Please be polite, respectful and friendly to all members of the host family. Respect their privacy. It is considered customary and polite to say "please" when asking and "thank you" when receiving.
  - Americans generally do not have locks on their bedroom doors— please do not enter other people's bedrooms without permission, even if the door is open.
  - Do not enter the bathroom if the door is shut. Knock first to make sure that no one is using the bathroom.
  - Smoking is not allowed anywhere inside the home. If you are a smoker, communicate with your family where it is appropriate to smoke and where to dispose of cigarette butts.
  - Please communicate with your family regarding the rules about smoking, playing music, eating food outside the kitchen, meal schedule, etc.
  - Out of courtesy, please always notify your family if you will be arriving home late for dinner or late at night.
  - If you are up between the hours of 10pm - 7am, or arrive home between these times, please do not be noisy or cause commotion (showering, making food, talking loudly etc.) You might disturb the other members in the home.
  - Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the home unless the host family explicitly says it is okay. The legal drinking age in United States is 21.
- Please always follow any specific house rules given to you by the family.
- If you have any questions about the rules the family provides you, ask them for clarification. If still unclear, contact the CEL Housing Department.

## FREIDNS & VISITORS

- Please ask the host family in advance if you wish to have friends visit you at home. Communicate with your host family about times that visitors are allowed in the house.
- Visitors are not permitted in your bedroom unless approved by the host family.
- Visitors are not allowed to stay overnight.
- Families are not required to provide meals for your guests unless invited by the family.



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## YOUR ROOM

- The family will provide you with a clean bedroom as booked (either single or twin room).
- If you need new linens or towels, please ask the family first.
- Not all rooms will include a private bathroom. It is possible you will share the bathroom with other students and/or family members.
- You are responsible for cleaning your room and washing towels and linens.
- If you are leaving the room, make sure to turn off all electrical items (lights, fans) in order to save energy

## MEALS & KITCHEN

Please note that American food is different from food in your home country. Please remember that you chose to come to the US to experience something different. If you would like to eat something different than what the family provides, you can purchase it on your own at the supermarket. Host families are required to provide you with breakfast only or breakfast and dinner everyday (as booked and confirmed on your booking confirmation). Any other meal or snack should be purchased by the student.

- **Breakfast** will usually consist of toast/bread, jam, fruit or cereal. You will have to “help yourself”, please clean up afterwards. Cooked breakfasts are not common in California and most of the families won't be there to prepare this meal.
- **Lunch and snacks** are not included in your homestay booking. If you would like to have lunch items or snacks in the home you may buy them from the supermarket for yourself. Please check with the host where you can eat these.
- **Dinners** in America are usually served between 5pm - 7pm. Once you arrive, ask your host family what time they usually serve dinner. Dinners are offered every day of the week, but some families will not cook everyday. In this case, meals are left for the students ahead of time. It's really common in California to have leftovers from the previous meal or frozen food a few days per week.
- **Important:** Please call or text the homestay family, at least two hours before meal time, if you will not be home for dinner or if you will be late for dinner. Please communicate with the family in regards to access to the kitchen and refrigerator. If families allow you to use their kitchen to prepare a snack, please clean up afterwards.
- We ask our families to have dinner with students as much as possible, but it's not required. Remember that families also have their daily obligations with their jobs, families and friends.
- Please note, due to the limited kitchen access provided by most hosts, we generally recommend students book half- board.

## PHONE & INTERNET

- Most families provide free Wi-Fi for their students even though this cannot be guaranteed.
- If you did not pay for a song, movie, or other media file that has a copyright, then downloading that file is illegal and should not be done in the home.
- We recommend you purchase an international phone SIM card. You can speak to the staff at school about this on your first day.
- Inform your family back home of the time difference and ask them not to call after 9 p.m. (California time). It is not acceptable and inconsiderate for most families to receive late night calls.

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## CLEANLINESS

- Please keep your bedroom tidy and clean at all times. Your bed should be made daily.
- Please keep your possessions tidy and do not leave them around the house. Leave the bathroom clean and tidy after use.
- **Important:** Please do not put your used toilet paper in the waste bin – please dispose of the paper in the toilet only.
- Dispose of feminine products properly – wrap them and put them in the waste bin provided. Do not put them in the toilet! If you are not sure, ask your homestay mother.
- As we have a shortage of water in California, please keep your showers short (10 minutes maximum). Ask your family at what time it is appropriate to shower. Do not shower late at night after 10 p.m. The noise might be disturbing to the other members of the home.
- Be considerate – do not spend too much time in the bathroom. Remember other people in the house are waiting to use the bathroom as well.
- After breakfast and dinner, offer to help with tidying the table after meals and assist with washing the dishes. Always clean after yourself. Homestay families will be responsible for cleaning the common areas of the house. Check their schedule.
- You are responsible for keeping your room and bathroom clean (making the bed, picking clothes off the floor, helping with the bathroom trash) and generally picking up after yourself in common areas.
- The host family is not your servant and you are not living in a hotel where everything is done for you. You are living as part of a family and are expected to contribute to light duties around the house. It's not common in California to have housekeeper, family members help each other cleaning and organizing the house.

**Talk to your family about any questions and make sure to clarify all the house rules.**

## PETS

If you have any allergies or fears of pets, it is important to communicate this information to the school or your agent prior to your arrival. This information will assist us in better matching you with the best possible family that will match your needs.

## LAUNDRY

- Most, but not all, families will provide a washing machine.
- Some homestay families will offer to include the student's washing as part of the family wash, others prefer the student to do their own washing.
- Please confirm with your family the best time to use the laundry facilities, if available, within the home.
- Do not use the washing machine to wash only one or two items as this is wasting water. Make sure you have a half or full load, depending on the settings of the machine.
- Ask the homestay family how to use the washing machine and how much laundry detergent to use.
- Students are responsible for buying laundry detergent.

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## **VALUABLES & CASH**

- You may receive a key to the home upon your arrival. If you lose or damage your key you are responsible for replacing it.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked when you leave the home.
- Do not leave any valuables lying around the house. Keep all valuables in a locked bag in your room. Large amounts of money should be kept in a bank account or in a safe at the bank.
- If you are going out do not carry large amounts of cash in your wallet or purse. Make sure you do not allow other people to see how much cash you have on you when paying for goods.

## **FAMILY OUTINGS**

- If your family is going on an outing and invite you, this is a great opportunity for you to see other places, talk with the family, and relax.
- Try to participate with the family as much as possible, even if it is going to the supermarket, this will help with your English and is a chance to learn about American culture.
- If the family is going out and you are not able to participate or do not want to go, please be respectful of the home while the family is away.
- Please let CEL know immediately if the family is planning a long term trip (more than one day) when you will be home alone.

## **CURFEWS FOR MINORS(SEVENTEEN AND YOUNGER)**

California curfew regulations expect students aged 17 and younger should be back at the host family by 10 p.m. (22:00) unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Please communicate directly with your family about concerns as this solves many problems. Ask the family if you have a question. They are there to help you settle into the home as well as into American culture.

## **WEEKEND TRIPS & ABSENCE FROM FAMILIES**

- If you are going to be away from your host family for a trip, please inform your family in advance.
- If you take a vacation (as approved by the school), there is no refund of homestay.

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## TRANSPORTATION

Your housing confirmation includes the address of CEL. If you are unsure how to get to CEL, please reach out to your host family or use Google Maps.

- Your host family will also show you the closest bus stop and possible parking spaces near the house if you are commuting by car.
- Public transportation is a great way to get around. Be aware that people may act strangely on the bus and trolley. If at anytime you feel uncomfortable or in danger, keep calm and move away from the situation. Tell the bus driver or trolley security.
- If you would like to go out, there are many popular phone apps like UBER or LYFT that can get you where you need to go. Ask your family or CEL staff if you have any questions .
- Please note, host families do not have to provide you with a free parking space or a ride. They may, however, assist you with showing you places that you may park your car.

## SICKNESS

- It is very important that you notify both your family and school if you are not feeling well.
- We are only able to advise you on options, however, you will have the ultimate decision on what steps would be best for you.

## OTHER

- Please note that you will be held liable for any damages.
- Please note that in America there are many different types of family dynamics. Every family will look and function differently. Each family will have different numbers of family members as well.

## QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS

- If you would like to extend or shorten your homestay please let CEL know immediately.
- **Important:** There is a 2 week cancellation policy with homestay. Contact Housing & Admissions team to discuss your options.
- If you have questions about or problems with your host families, please reach out to the CEL housing team who are happy to answer all your questions.
- The homestay family has the right to ask you to leave the home if at any time they feel disrespected. If you are kicked out of the home for an appropriate reason, CEL has the right to deny any refund.

**If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us! We are here to help and make sure that you have an amazing experience abroad.**

**JULIANO SPARACINO / KIM SCHAFHAUSER / LEE VERRALL  
HOUSING & ADMISSIONS TEAM**