



SOCIETA' DANTE ALIGHIERI
IL MONDO IN ITALIANO
Comitato di Siena

data di edizione: 10/11/2016

HOMESTAY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Staying with a family is an exciting experience. There is probably no better way to be immersed in the host culture than to share everyday life with a family. Often the host family becomes like a second family for students. It offers an environment to use your Italian on a daily basis and to develop a rich vocabulary. Living with a host family provides a direct introduction to Italian family life! Depending on what you chose, you will have a single or double room with half board (breakfast and dinner included). Use of the kitchen is strictly forbidden.

Our families are always very pleased to welcome you into their homes. Do not be afraid to try to communicate; your family will appreciate it and help you in any way they can. Each family of course is different with its own routines and ways of doing things. Naturally it will take you a little more time to settle in and get used to your new environment. It is important, from the start, to ask questions if you haven't understood something, and if you think that a misunderstanding has occurred because of your difficulty in expressing yourself, ask our staff to assist you.

THE STUDENT AGREES TO:

- Acknowledge that the primary consideration in living with a hosting family is for cross-cultural experience
- Conform to normal rules of family life and to contribute to routine operation of the household
- Make an effort to participate in family activities
- Show consideration and tolerance to host family members
- Respect household rules
- Not damage household furniture in any way
- Consult the host family before using household appliances or equipment and use them in ways approved of by the family
- Inform the family if you will not be home for a meal, will arrive home late in the evening, or stay out overnight.
- Invite guest to the home only with the knowledge and permission of the host family and after having agreed upon visiting hours
- Use the telephone for reasonable lengths of times and after permission from the host family. Make all calls collect or using a calling card.
- If your relatives wish to call you, please remind them of the time difference to avoid a call in the middle of the night! Your friends and relatives may also call you at school.
- Clean up after you in the home
- Help yourself to food only with the knowledge and permission of the family
- Never use the kitchen and the domestic appliances (i.e. fridge, oven, etc.)
- Exercise consideration and good judgment
- Promptly reimburse the family if you cause any damage in the home
- Never initiate or participate in a sexually-oriented discussion, the viewing of sexually explicit photographs, written materials or films with any family member, be suitably clothed and covered at all times, never touch family members inappropriately



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THE FAMILY AGREES TO:

- Acknowledge that the primary consideration in hosting a student is for cross-cultural experience
- To respect the culture and values of the student
- Provide a nutritious breakfast and dinner every day. An evening meal shall be prepared and left if the family is not home for dinner unless otherwise agreed to by the parties concerned
- Provide appropriate meals for students that have food restrictions and/or allergies if these have been previously communicated to SDA Siena
- Ensure that the student does not have to prepare meals for him/herself on a regular basis
- Interact with the student on a daily basis and include the student in appropriate family activities
- Advise the student that they are not to visit any private area of the house, including the bedrooms and bathrooms of other family members
- Provide each student with a key to the house and the code for a residential alarm if one is used
- Contact Serena and Valentina or person delegated in her absence if problems arise between student and family members
- Cooperate with Serena and Valentina or person delegated in her absence in trying to reach a reasonable, equitable solution for all concerned.
- Inform Serena and Valentina or person delegated in her absence of all other students or house guests living in the house, including those who take up residence after the student arrives
- Inform Serena and Valentina or person delegated in her absence of plans to be away from the home for any period of time during the placement
- Treat the students with respect and kindness and expect the same in return
- Never resort to abusive, aggressive or otherwise inappropriate behavior
- Never initiate or participate in a sexually-oriented discussion, the viewing of sexually explicit photographs, written materials or films with the student, be suitably clothed and covered at all times, never touch the student inappropriately
- Homestay families are under no obligation to provide accommodation for students friends/families. We recommend that visiting parents/friends arrange hotel accommodation during their visits. SDA staff will gladly help booking a hotel.

BATHROOM: Please leave the bathroom as clean as you wish to find it and keep the toilet clean by using the toilet brush provided.

ELECTRICITY AND HEATING: In Italy electricity is very expensive and Italians are used to reducing the use of electricity by turning the lights off in rooms that they are not using even momentarily. Students are asked to do likewise.

The Italian Government passed a law in the 70's and renovated it in 1993 which states that:

a) the start date and end of use of heating is fixed by law by geographical areas (in Siena: from November 1 to April 15).

b) indoor temperature is set at 20° C or 68° F

Because of these reasons Italians are not used to living in warm rooms. During the winter time they turn the heating off at night and they wear quite heavy clothes around the house – i.e. wool sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants etc. (not T-shirts or similar light attire). Please do likewise.



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GUESTS: Please do not invite anyone home for any given reason without asking your family's permission and visiting hours.

LAUNDRY: You can wash undergarments at home, ask your family where you can hang it to dry. Laundry washing is not included in homestay costs. If you would like your family to wash your clothes, you must pay € 5,00 per load. Washing-machines are to be handled only by the host family members. If you wish, you may also take your clothes to a laundromat. Ask your family where the closest one is located.

MEALS: The family will follow the dietary guidelines that the student must communicate at the time of enrollment. You should politely inform your host family if you do not like a particular food. Breakfast is included and is a typical continental breakfast which usually consists of a choice of milk, coffee or tea, biscuits, bread, butter and jam. For those who choose dinner, it will consist of a first course of pasta or soup and a second course of meat, fish, cheese or eggs with vegetables or salad. Breakfast and Dinner will be served at home every day. Ask what time dinner is served, and please inform your family if you are planning to be late or do not intend to come home for dinner. A quick telephone call will not take you much time but will save your family time and effort.

YOUR BEDROOM: Your host will change the sheets once every two weeks. Please keep your room tidy and make your bed. In Italy, electricity is very expensive and Italians are very careful not to waste it (they turn lights off that are not being used, they don't waste hot water, etc) so please do likewise.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

School: Società Dante Alighieri Siena
Via Tommaso Pendola, 37
53100 Siena Italia
Tel. +39 0577-49533
Fax: +39 0577-270646

Principal Dr. Sonia Di Centa Cell: +39 335-7020007
Director Dr. Luca Bonomi Cell: +39 333-8468116

Emergency (equivalent to 911): Medical Emergencies: **118**
Police (Carabinieri): **112**
Police (Polizia di Stato): **113**
Fire Department: **115**
+39 0577-49222

Taxi:

Family host name and address:

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____



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