
HOMESTAY APPLICATION PACKAGE

If you would like to be part of the Skagit Valley College Homestay program, please follow the instructions below:

1. Read all enclosed information outlining the Homestay program at SVC.
2. Complete all pages of the application form (front and back).
3. Complete Rules & Agreement Form & Contract for Minors **if you are under 18 years of age**. (Parents signatures are required for each of these.)
4. Write a letter to your host telling them about yourself and attach a recent photo(s). You may mail, e-mail or fax this letter and photo (digital if e-mailing) to your host.
5. Enclose a check or money order for \$150 payable to Skagit Valley College, or fill/type in the Visa/MasterCard information on the Homestay application. Please identify card type.

6. Mail or fax the above documents to:

International Programs
Skagit Valley College
2405 East College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Fax: (360) 416-7868

If our school accepts you, the placement fee is non-refundable.

Although all attempts will be made to promote positive host/student relationships, Skagit Valley College is not responsible for the lifestyle, behavior, or philosophy (religious affiliation) of the host.

After a host has been selected for you, we will notify you of their contact details.

LIVING IN A HOMESTAY AT SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

Skagit Valley College tries to be fair to both hosts and students. Both parties must read and agree to certain Homestay guidelines. Please read the information below; to make sure you are willing and able to fully participate in our Homestay program.

Homestay Commitment

- **Please note Homestay is the only housing option available for students who are under the age of 18 years old.**
- Your first few days at Homestay are a trial period. If the student and host are not a good match, the Homestay Coordinator will make a change as quickly as possible.
- After the trial period, students should plan to stay in Homestay at least one quarter (12 weeks). **If you leave before the end of the first quarter, you will forfeit your deposit and any prepaid rent.**
- Students must give their host 20 days notice before moving out. **If students do not give their host 20 days notice they will lose their deposit, any prepaid rent or possibly owe the following months rent. (paperwork is required)**

Family Life

- Host families are made up of people from many different ethnic groups.
- We try to make a good match for students, but we cannot promise we will be able to fulfill all student requests.
- We cannot accept requests for a particular religion or ethnicity.
- Families are not discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

Homes

- Host families live in many different kinds of homes.
- Regardless of host selection, all students are provided with a bed, dresser, desk, chair, lamp, closet, towels and bedding.

Rules

Rules are in place to give students guidelines for living in the host's home. Hosts will explain the house rules to students when they arrive. In general, students should be respectful. Please note the following:

- Students must pay for all long distance phone calls made from a landline phone.
- Students are not allowed to use the hosts' computer.
- Internet is usually provided in the home, but it could be necessary for the student to purchase for their own use.
- Smoking is not allowed inside of any of the Homestays. Smoking may be permitted outside of the homes.

- Students will be asked to help with small household chores, such as helping with dishes, vacuuming, and cleaning up after themselves.

Responsibilities of students

- Students are responsible for their own transportation, bus, bicycle or walking.
- Students must pay Homestay fees directly to the host on the designated date.
- Students must give 20 days notice to the Host and Homestay Coordinator before moving out of Homestay, or they will lose their deposit and any prepaid rent
- Students must tell the Homestay Coordinator if there are problems or concerns.
- Students must return the host's house key, and provide their new address to the host when they move out of Homestay.
- Students need to leave their room as clean as they first found it when they move out of Homestay.
- Students must pay for any damages they caused at their Homestay.

Student's Personal Property

The student's personal property is not the responsibility of SVC or the host family. Any lost or stolen personal property of the student, including lost or stolen money, which is not covered by an insurance policy, is the responsibility of the student. **Students are required to establish a bank account separate from that of their host family.**

Code of Conduct

All students enrolled at SVC must agree to the rules of the Code of Student Conduct. (Washington State law requires the college to have the Code of Conduct.) Stated in general terms, the student must:

- Maintain high standards of honesty and trustworthiness.
- Respect the rights, privileges and property of others.
- Agree to obey the rules and regulations of the college.

Students must recognize that Homestay is part of SVC's housing. The Code of Conduct applies to student activity within Homestay, too. Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in a student being reassigned to a second host family. However, repeated violations may result in removal from the Homestay program. In such cases, SVC is not obligated to provide additional housing, and the student will be responsible for securing off-campus accommodations. These violations may also impact SEVIS compliance and visa status.

The Code of Conduct applies to student activity within Homestay, too.

Vacation Policy

Students who wish to go on vacation while they are living in Homestay are offered a reduced rate for the time they are away, **if they are out of the home for more than 15 nights**, it will be at a 50% reduction. Less than 15 nights, there is no reduction. **These vacations must be prearranged with the host family and Homestay Coordinator or there is no discount.** For more information, or if you have questions, contact the International Programs Office.

Homestay Options

Traditional Homestay - \$850/month (18 yrs. and over) - \$900/month (under 18 yrs.)

- All food main meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) is provided.
- Specialty foods requested may be at the students' expense.
- The host prepares up to five evening meals each week. Students are responsible to make their own breakfast, lunch and weekend dinners with food provided by the host.
- Each student is provided a private room, bed, desk, chair, light, dresser, closet, towels and bedding.
- Other expenses such as bus fare, personal items, long distance phone use and Internet installation are not included in the monthly fee.
- The monthly Homestay fee is due each month on the date the student moved in.

***The stipend rates listed will take effect on July 1, 2025.**

Room and Kitchen Access - \$650/month (18 years and older only)

- No food is provided.
- Student will need to purchase and prepare all their own food using the host's kitchen.
- Each student is provided a private room, bed, desk, chair, light, dresser, closet, towels and bedding.
- Other expenses such as bus fare, personal items, long distance phone use and Internet installation are not included in the monthly fee.
- The monthly Homestay fee is due each month on the date the student moved in.

***The stipend rates listed will take effect on July 1, 2025.**

Total Homestay Costs

- **Application Fee – \$150**
Application fee is due with the Homestay application.
- **Security/Damage Deposit & Cleaning Fee – \$250**
The \$250 fee is to be paid directly from the student to the host. \$200 of this refundable and will be returned to the student within 30 days after moving out ***if*** there are no damages ***and*** the student has completed the 20-days' notice paperwork before moving out.
- **Monthly Fee – \$650/\$850/\$900 (based on the option)**
The monthly fee is payment to the Host for living in their home and is to be paid directly from the student to the host. This is due each month on the date you moved in.

REQUEST FOR HOMESTAY

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PAGES

(Please print clearly in ink or type information)

Mr. _____ Ms. _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Nationality _____
(Month, Day, Year)

CURRENT ADDRESS:

Street Address _____

City, State, Post Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (if different than above):

Street Address _____

City, State, Post Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

AGENCY INVOLVED WITH PLACEMENT (if applicable):

Agent's Name and Agency _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Post Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name and Relationship _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Post Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

WHAT QUARTER WILL YOU BEGIN YOUR STUDY? _____

ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL DATE AT SEATAC AIRPORT _____
(please check your acceptance letter for approved dates)

HOMESTAY OPTION YOU PREFER:

TRADITIONAL (Food included) _____ ROOM ONLY (No food included) _____ EITHER _____

ENGLISH CONVERSATION LEVEL:

BEGINNER _____ INTERMEDIATE _____ ADVANCED _____

CURRENT OR DESIRED OCCUPATION: _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

	YES	NO	DESCRIBE IF YOU CHECKED YES
HEALTH PROBLEMS	_____	_____	_____
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES	_____	_____	_____
FOOD ALLERGIES	_____	_____	_____
ANIMAL ALLERGIES	_____	_____	_____

ARE YOU TAKING MEDICATION (S)? YES _____ NO _____

DESCRIBE: _____

WHAT LANGUAGE (S) DO YOU SPEAK? _____

FATHER'S OCCUPATION: _____

MOTHER'S OCCUPATION: _____

NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND THEIR AGES: _____

WHAT IS YOUR FIELD OF STUDY OR MAJOR? _____

WOULD YOU PREFER:

SMALL CHILDREN IN YOUR HOST FAMILY? Yes _____ No _____ No preference _____
(under 5 years old)

OLDER CHILDREN IN YOUR HOST FAMILY? Yes _____ No _____ No preference _____

WOULD YOU BE COMFORTABLE WITH:

A FAMILY THAT OWNS A DOG? Yes _____ No _____ No preference _____

A FAMILY THAT OWNS A CAT? Yes _____ No _____ No preference _____

PLEASE NOTE:
Most of our homes have one or more animals in the home. You may be asked to choose between a cat or a dog.

DO YOU SMOKE? Yes _____ No _____ (please be honest to ensure proper placement)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR HOST?----- YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU DRINK ALCOHOL? (must be at least 21 yrs. old) ----- YES _____ NO _____

ARE THERE ANY FOODS THAT YOU CANNOT EAT?----- YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, WHAT FOODS: _____

DO YOU HAVE A CAR?----- YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU PLAN TO GET A CAR? (must be 18 yrs. old)----- YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT (S)? ----- YES _____ NO _____

IF SO, WHAT INSTRUMENT (S)? _____

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE WITH A HOST? (must stay at least one full quarter) _____

WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION? _____ DO YOU PRACTICE IT? _____

PLEASE LIST ACTIVITIES, HOBBIES, AND SPORTS YOU LIKE TO DO:
(this is to assist in letting your host family know your interests to be able to interact with you best)

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL OF YOUR REQUESTS MAY NOT BE MET. WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO PLACE YOU WITH A HOST THAT WILL MATCH MOST OF YOUR NEEDS.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE HOMESTAY APPLICATION PACKAGE. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RULES OUTLINED IN SVC'S HOMESTAY PROGRAM AND I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOMESTAY PROGRAM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. THE INFORMATION I HAVE PROVIDED IN MY APPLICATION IS TRUTHFUL AND ACCURATE. I GIVE SVC PERMISSION TO SHARE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON MY APPLICATION WITH MY PROSPECTIVE HOST.

Signature _____

Date _____

HOMESTAY APPLICATION FEE PAYMENT OPTIONS

____ ENCLOSURE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$150.00 USD MADE PAYABLE TO SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

____ CREDIT CARD PAYMENT - VISA / MASTERCARD (circle one)

Cardholder's Name _____

Cardholder's Phone # _____

Visa / MasterCard Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Amount _____ CVV code: _____

RULES, AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FOR MINORS

Skagit Valley College Homestay Program Required for all students under age 18

This document has legal significance. Please Read Carefully.

The undersigned Skagit Valley College (SVC) student and the student's natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian, agree to the following rules:

1. Students must obey the local, state and federal laws. Drinking alcohol is prohibited until age 21. Smoking is prohibited until age 18. Illegal drugs are prohibited for persons of any age, and students should not be associated with anyone involved with illegal drugs in any way.
2. Students under the age of 18 must get approval from the host family for all activities. At all times, the host family must know where the student is, with whom, and when the student will return.
3. Students must obey the house rules, and respect the property of the host family.
4. Students and natural parents must respect all decisions made by SVC officials.

In addition to the foregoing, the undersigned student and the student's natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) acknowledge(s) certain facts and release(s) SVC and the student's host family, as follows:

1. **Student's Personal Property.** The student's personal property is not the responsibility of SVC or the host family. Any lost or stolen personal property of the student, including lost or stolen money, which is not covered by an insurance policy, is the responsibility of the student and the student's natural parent(s) and/or guardian(s). Students are required to establish a bank account separate from that of their host family.
2. **Insurance.** Any medical expenses or lost/stolen property or damage not covered by applicable insurance of the student is the responsibility of the natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the student.
 - a. **Medical Insurance.** Neither SVC nor the host family is responsible for any medical expenses incurred by the student. The student must obtain medical insurance coverage for the term of his/her stay. Please note: Many medical insurance policies exclude coverage for "pre-existing conditions" (that is a medical condition that exists prior to the commencement of the insurance policy. Additionally, many such policies do not cover psychiatric care or any related expenses.

The student will be covered by LewerMark medical insurance while living in Homestay:

- b. **Property and Liability Insurance.** Neither SVC nor the host family is responsible for any property damaged or destroyed by the student or for any liability that results from the student's activities while enrolled at SVC. The natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the student is (are) responsible for any damage or destruction of property or any injury to persons inflicted or caused by the student while living with the host family and/or enrolled at SVC.

Due to the fact you are a minor in this country there are laws that have been put into place for your safety and protection. Students under the age of 18 years who are living in a Homestay must comply with the rules that are set in place by this contract. Those who choose to disobey the rules may be removed from the Homestay Program.

1. Sunday through Thursday are considered school nights and you must be in the home each of these nights no later than 9:00pm, provided that you have checked in with your host before 6:00pm.
2. Friday and Saturday are considered weekend nights and these nights are acceptable for overnights, as long as you have asked and received permission from your host by the end of the day on the Thursday prior to the overnight.
3. Before you plan an overnight, you must provide your host with your friends contact information. This includes the address, a phone number and the name of their host, if they are also living in a Homestay.
4. You are **not allowed** to stay out late or overnight without the permission of the host.
5. The host must know who you are with and where you are at all times.
6. If the host calls you, you **must** answer the call or return the call as soon as possible.

There are no exceptions to these rules! By signing this contract you are agreeing to the terms listed above and are aware that by breaking this contract you could be removed from your current Homestay or the Homestay Program entirely. In addition, you parents and/or agent will be contacted to assist in the matter.

If you do not agree to these terms, then a different living situation should be considered.

Student
Signature_____

Date_____

Parent/Guardian
Signature_____

Date_____

Host
Signature_____

Date_____

In addition to the foregoing, the natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) agree to the following:

PERMISSION FOR MEDICAL CARE and RELEASE:

I (we), as the applicant's natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), agree to authorize SVC or the Host Family to act for us in any emergency, accident or illness during the period of time the student is admitted and enrolled at SVC. This covers the period from the time the student boards transportation scheduled by SVC in the United States until the student leaves the return-scheduled transportation by SVC.

PERMISSION FOR HOST FAMILY TO AUTHORIZE STUDENT ACTIVITY and SIGN MEDICAL RELEASE DOCUMENTATION:

I (we), as the applicant's natural parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), agree to authorize the Host Family to sign student activity permission slips and corresponding medical release forms. I (we) further agree to fully indemnify and hold harmless both SVC and our child's American Host Family from any and all liabilities, including liabilities to third parties, which may arise from the student's participation in the activity.

Natural Father/Legal Guardian:

Natural Father/Legal Guardian

Address (Street Address / City / State / Postal Code / Country)

Phone

E-mail

Signature of Natural Father/Legal Guardian

Date (Month / Day / Year)

Natural Mother/Legal Guardian:

Natural Mother/Legal Guardian

Address (Street Address / City / State / Postal Code / Country)

Phone

E-mail

Signature of Natural Mother/Legal Guardian

Date (Month / Day / Year)

Signature of **Student:** _____

Date: _____
Month /Day / Year