

POLICIES

The policies presented here are the PTP general policies for students. Since variations regarding specific policies and procedures exist among countries, it is important that you check with the PTP exchange representatives in your host country.

Alcohol: Students are required to observe all laws of their host country with regard to the minimum drinking age. Students are also expected to follow host family guidelines on the use of alcohol. Student's will be considered for early return if he or she violates the policy.

Confidentiality: Due to the realities of a program such as PTP, confidential information must often be shared to resolve difficulties or facilitate understanding. All PTP volunteers should refrain from promises of confidentiality, advising participants of the limitations of confidentiality within our organization. However, all PTP participants have the right to expect that PTP will share confidential information conservatively and with discretion.

Student/Host Family's Personal Belongings: The student's right to privacy must be respected. PTP considers it unethical to examine and/or confiscate a student's personal belongings (e.g., mail, diary, etc.). The student must respect the same rules regarding host family belongings. No representative of PTP has the legal right to withhold from the student any legal personal possession such as a passport, visa form, or driver's license. However, in some situations, PTP does have the right to demand, as a condition for remaining on program, that a student agree to destroy or turn over the item.

Student's/Host Family's Address, Telephone Number, Status on Program: PTP prohibits any release of such information to non-PTP persons regarding a student or host family without the latter's permission (or that of the natural parent in the case of a student).

Contact From Natural Family, Home Country Friends: Natural families and home country friends are strongly discouraged from visiting the exchange student during the program year, especially during the initial adjustment period. The interruption breaks the continuity of the relationship with the host family and may lessen the exchange experience for the student and the host family. This break sometimes leads to adjustment difficulties so serious that PTP may consider early return of the student to his or her home country. Natural families who consider such visits must contact PTP office before any arrangements are made. Host families must not be expected to accommodate visiting family members or friends with regard to room, meals or transportation.

Dangerous Activities: PTP may withhold authorization for any activity if it is considered hazardous and unacceptable for the student to participate. The following activities are strictly not permitted: hang-gliding, parachute jumping, piloting a private plane, bungee jumping, parasailing, and driving a car or motorcycle.

Driving: Exchange students are not permitted to drive cars or motorcycles. This policy applies even if the host family thinks that the student is a responsible and careful driver. Violators of this policy will be considered for early return. Permission to use farm equipment, trail bikes and mopeds is different in each country, and the decision is left to the host family. If the hosting family allows the student to use one of the above vehicles, the student is expected to take safety precautions and obey the laws.

Drugs: PTP students may not buy, sell, possess, or use drugs that are illegal in their home or host country. Violators of this policy will be considered for early return. A verified violation normally includes physical evidence, student admission of usage or reliable witnesses who have seen the student with or using drugs.

Early Return: Voluntary Early Return: when a student wants to return home early, and the natural parents agree with this decision.

Involuntary Early Return: when the host PTP country decides, based on stated guidelines, including consultation, that a student should be removed from the PTP program and returned home to his or her home country.

Employment: Laws regarding exchange students' employment are different in each country. Many countries limit employment as a condition for giving visas to visitors. International participants in the PTP program are not permitted to work during their stay.

Extension of Stay: PTP will not grant extension of stay unless there is demonstrated evidence of medical or special emergency requiring such an extension. PTP responsibility ends with the

return flight to which the student has been assigned. If a student extends his/her stay, he/she will be considered off program.

Medical Treatment of a Student (including emergencies): All PTP students must have insurance coverage for illness, medical emergencies, and hospitalization which is acceptable to the hosting PTP organization. PTP, its representatives and its host families are not responsible for any student medical bills regardless of who signs a hospital admission form. They also are not responsible for any negative results of emergency and/or other medical treatment.

Off Program: If a student is absent without permission from the host family or other place to which PTP has assigned him or her, PTP may determine that this student has removed him or herself from the PTP program. In this case, PTP is released from all obligations, legal and otherwise, to the student and his or her natural parents or guardians for his or her current or further well being. In most countries, the validity of the student's visa is linked to being on program. Therefore the visa is no longer valid if the student chooses to go off program. The separation from the PTP program is final. The student will then lose PTP support. Any additional expenses incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her natural family.

Pregnancy: For medical reasons, placement and personal considerations, female students found to be pregnant while on the PTP program will normally be returned home immediately after the notification of the natural parents. Individual circumstances may justify exceptions to this policy; however, all students will be considered for early return. Male PTP students who cause pregnancies while on program will be subject to the same policy as females.

School: Attendance: All PTP students in the program are expected to regularly attend a secondary school, and each host country is encouraged to see that a normal course of schoolwork is maintained. Repeated non-attendance will result in consideration for early return.

Performance: Allowing for an initial period of linguistic and/or academic adjustment, a student is expected to achieve an adequate school academic record. Within a reasonable period of time, poor motivation, underachievement (e.g., failing grades) or inappropriate behavior, in combination with poor adjustment in general, may be cause for early return consideration.

Formal Expulsion: If a student is expelled from school, the student will be subject to an early return.

Student Expenses: Students are responsible for such expenses as transportation, trips or expenses during trips; telephone calls or other personal expenses. They are also responsible for any property damage they cause. Students are not responsible for meals and lodging.

Student Travel: PTP has a responsibility to assure student safety to the greatest extent possible, have knowledge of a student's location, and ensure that students participate in host family activities and school programs. Any travel, which might have an impact on any of these factors, should require special authorization from PTP. Unauthorized travel may be cause for early return.

Support: I acknowledge that the PTP support system in both the sending and the hosting country is available for us 24 hours per day, and will always act in our child's best interest. I will contact first PTP volunteers in the host country, who in turn will work through the PTP network in the sending country.

Violations of the Law: The nature and seriousness of the offense will determine procedure and possible outcome. Criminal prosecution, theft or shoplifting may be cause for early return.