



Host Program Information and Contract

We welcome students and hosts to Language Pacifica's homestay program! To participate as a host or as a student, please read, sign, and return this contract.

About the School

Language Pacifica's mission is to provide the highest quality intensive English program to non-native speakers of English. We embrace diversity, service and excellence in creating a humanistic and innovative environment in which to teach and learn the English language and American culture.

Location

Language Pacifica is located at 1528 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, just north of Highway 92 (the San Mateo Bridge).

History

The school has a 39-year history in Silicon Valley; it was founded in Mountain View in 1979, was in Palo Alto from 1988 to 2002, moved to Menlo Park in 2002, and moved to its present location in San Mateo in 2018.

Starting dates

Our terms last eight weeks; in addition to the terms, we allow ongoing admission, in which students enter and leave the school on an individual basis. A placement test and orientation are given every Monday from 8:30-10:30 a.m., following which students join their classes.

Classes

Part-time classes, full-time classes, and private lessons are available Monday through Friday from 9:00-5:00 p.m.

Holidays

The school is open year-round, except for a break at the end of the year. It is also closed on most national holidays, such as Martin Luther King's Day, Presidents' Day, etc. Summer, especially July and August, is the busiest season with the most students needing hosts.

Activities

Activities such as sports, movies, and café excursions are available after school some days. There are also optional all-day excursions to locations such as San Francisco and Monterey. Weekend trips are available through a local tour group, California Tours, which takes students from all over the Bay Area to locations such as Disneyland, Lake Tahoe, and Las Vegas.

The Homestay Program

As a host, your mission is to welcome your student as a member of the family and keep him/her safe and comfortable.

As a student, your mission is to be a pleasant guest and an emissary of your culture.

Meals

Students and hosts are matched based, in part, on meal requests: meals together ("halfboard") or separate ("kitchen use").

Students requesting halfboard have breakfast and dinner prepared by their hosts every day; some request lunches available to them on weekends. For these students and hosts, meals are bonding times. Though they may breakfast at different times, they have dinner together. Weekend lunches, if provided, may be as simple as a frozen dish or nice leftovers to microwave, but the student needs to be shown what it is and how to heat it.

Students requesting kitchen use buy all their own groceries and cook all their own meals, using the host's pots and pans, dishes, and some space in the refrigerator and the cupboard. Students and hosts who prefer this option like the flexibility it provides.

Time together

In addition to meals, students and hosts can spend time together in everyday activities such as watching television after dinner, taking walks, grocery shopping, etc. so that the student can experience more of American culture and the lifestyle of this area.

Room

Most of our students request private rooms. Sometimes students traveling together want to share a room. The bathroom can be private or shared, depending on the home.

Cleaning

Students keep their bedrooms neat and clean and keep the bathroom tidy after use. If the student has no meals with the host and is using the kitchen, s/he should wash the dishes, pots and pans s/he uses and leave the kitchen as clean as it was before use.

Rules

Hosts teach students how the household works, and students follow the rules of the home. Both should keep in mind that things may need to be said more than once; since students are coming here to learn English, we can assume that there will be gaps in communication. Both host and student should let the LP director know if they need help communicating specific ideas.

Broken Items

If something belonging to the host is broken by the student, the student should pay the host the cost of replacing the item.

Telephone

We strongly recommend that students have their own cell phones that can be used for local as well as international calls. The student should give the host the cell phone number for local use on the first day. It's very useful in case the student gets lost!

If the host has a home phone, the student may use it only for collect calls, calls using a telephone card, or for calls for which there is no charge. (The host should inform the student of the areas s/he can call without charge.)

Arrival

Students usually arrive on weekends. Many choose to be picked up by school staff and others go to the hosts from the airport on their own. Students should let the school know their arrival information as soon as it's available and we will send it to hosts.

Transportation

Hosts help students get to school and back on the first day by showing them the bus/train stops, giving them schedules, telling them which routes to take, etc. Since this is often difficult for students, hosts give them as much guidance as possible.

Compensation

Compensation, usually in four-week increments (unless the student is staying for less than four weeks), is sent from Language Pacifica to hosts. No money is exchanged directly between student and host. Extensions must be done through the school.

Concerns

If there is any problem, please talk together directly. You may also contact me to help with English and sensitive topics. We will try to solve it together. Two weeks' notice must be given to the school, host and student in order to change hosts.

Contact

Ruth Kirby, Director
Language Pacifica, 1528 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: (650) 321-1840 e-mail: rk@languagepacificacom
Language Pacifica's weekend emergency number: (650) 766-3452

"I have read and understand the above information. I agree to the conditions of Language Pacifica's homestay program."

Name of host or student: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____