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PEACE Student and Host Post-arrival Orientation Goals and Meeting Format

If this meeting is timed properly (From 5-6 weeks after students' arrival), students should now be starting to understand English well enough to understand what is being reviewed and participate. And all hosts and their students will be past the euphoria of the honeymoon period and starting to see each other as they really are, not as some idealistic fantasy of perfection. At this point the issues reviewed will have some degree of significance, otherwise lost if the meeting were held too early. Miscommunication of intended feelings and unrealistic expectations are at the heart of most failed relationships. Our aim is to anticipate and minimize these negatives and to establish strategies to manage them effectively when (not if) they occur.

- 1 Sign attendance sheet and take a nametag.**
- 2 If eating, see host about heating, refrigeration or setting food, beverages, utensils on serving table.**
- 3 Get yourself a beverage. Families & students sit where the folder with your student's name is.**
- 4 Get acquainted. Host will go around room asking a variety of questions of each participant regarding your initial motivations or reactions to this experience. Stand and intro self as called.**
- 5 Culture Shock. The meeting facilitator may use stories, games, and support material to review, which should be found in the front of your packet. These will help you empathize better with each other's feeling. One paper called Red Flags centers on student issues and another on host issues. There are several poignant contributions from former students well worth reading.**
- 6 Next, you will find in your folder two copies of the Pre-departure Orientation Rules Review. These should have been reviewed and signed by students and their parents prior to student travel. We ask you to review again and each student and one host parent initial as discussed and understood. After completion, one copy is to be retained by the host family and the other turned in to the representative to mail back to the PEACE office with the orientation registration form with all attendees signatures.**
- 7 Food Break. Hopefully your meeting is large enough to include a potluck international meal with entrees and desserts made by students (with help from mom?) to represent the cuisine of their country and even play some Latin music if they brought their CDs and players.**
- 8 Group Therapy? After getting food, if two facilitators are available break into groups of students and hosts and discuss what issued each are having, sharing feeling, strategies, etc. with their peers. Then return to the larger group for final review of what topics were discussed that we might benefit from by sharing our new insights.**
- 9. Picture taking, goodbyes, exchange of phone numbers and emails. We hope host parents will want to plan some joint activities with their newfound comrades and, in doing so, double the pleasure and sightseeing opportunities of their students. Please limit these joint ventures, however, to carefully spaced events for increasing the education of your students. Frequent weekend sleepovers to relieve their boredom may make them temporarily happy but will undermine the program mission to acculturate.**

If you have any questions or concerns as a result of your orientation please feel free to call the office and we will help. Thank you for attending. We hope you had a good meeting and will have a great year.