

## Richard Page

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**Subject:** travel request

**To:** rpage@peace-inc.org

**Subject:** JUAN JOSE

My name is Deysi, I am Juan C's mother. My husband is traveling to Mexico on March for a international car's racing, I will like to ask you if there will be any possibility of Juan to go with his father. If you agree to give the authorization, Juan Jose could travel directly to Mexico DF and my husband will meet him at the airport, they will spend 6 days there and then Juan will take a plane back. We will take full responsibility of this trip. Juan already talked to his host family and they have no problem of taking him to the airport and then picking him up.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for giving our son this wonderful experience. We will of course respect your decision about this request, we hope you can give him this permission.

Sincerely, Deysi C

**From:** Richard Page [mailto:rpage@peace-inc.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 05, 2011 01:26 PM

**Subject:** travel request

If his host father requested to take him I would be OK with that if the school authorized the trip as educational, but this is not an educational event. More than that, we have a longstanding rule based on industry wisdom predating us by decades (#3 & 12 in the attached Rules Review signed by parents and students before departure)

**3. Visits to or from Parents, Relatives or Other Family Friends:** in mid-year are forbidden unless an invitation has come from the host family for a special occasion. It is a financial burden to host an exchange student. Do not put the family in an embarrassing position because it is difficult to say no when pressed. Such visits, if approved, must include both families together and not separate a student from his hosts. Parents may not take their child away from the host family for Christmas, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays or other events. This prohibition applies to other relatives of the student who may live in the host country. We prefer parental visits to be the last month of the year, since mid-year visits can cause homesickness. Also, do not make plans for "cousins" or boy/girl friends to just happen to be nearby "vacationing". A visit from either is forbidden at all times because this disrupts the bond between you and your American friends and family and has even, when violated, been known to 'deliver' drastic unintended consequences.

**12. Driving a Car and other Independent Travel** is a risk and insurance expense that most parents don't want. If one wealthy father bought his son a car other students would soon learn of it and become jealous. We know you love driving, but all must abide by the same restrictions. We also must say no to you traveling to other cities without a PEACE-approved adult (over age 30) chaperone such as your host parents, their relatives, neighbors, teachers, church groups or your PEACE rep even if you are 18. Even if your parents would approve it and buy you a plane ticket, we will deny you permission to travel away alone or with only young drivers except in your host town. **This includes requests to visit relatives or family friends by public transportation.**

Reunions with natural family separate from the host family rebuild the emotional ties to home and break the ones with the host country and family. When the student returns they are struck with extreme homesickness as much or more than when they first arrived. It has even been seen to be so bad that they student ended up quitting. When parents are allegedly in agreement to take the student to the airport and pick up again they are also often reluctant but feel pressure to be responsible for denying the natural family. Independent Travel creates safety and freedom risks neither we nor the State Department want. For that and for the obvious subsequent jealousy of other students forbidden to do the same over the holidays the ban must be uniform and without exception other than for a funeral of immediate family (brother or parent). We are not naive and sometimes learn later when people go behind our backs and do what they want. Discovery of this is grounds for immediate termination.

Be advised, too, that U.S. Customs may not let a student back in the USA without a letter of continued good standing signed by me attached to their visa form DS2019.