



AILI Scholarship FAQs

Q: How will I know what I need to bring with me?

A: We will send you a packing list with the items you'll need in order to be comfortable on your homestay.

Q: Who will I stay with?

A: You will stay with a host family that has been carefully selected by one of our partner organizations.

Q: What will my host family be like?

A: Host families come from many different family circumstances. Just as all of our students are different, so are all of our host families. The members of our families are individuals with specific likes, dislikes, interests, habits and customs that are likely to be charming however different from your own. You will not be treated as a guest, but as a member of your host family.

Q: Who will help me if I need it?

A: The local coordinator in your homestay community is available to help you throughout the scholarship experience.

Q: Will I travel as a group?

A: No, the AILI Scholarship provides an Individual Homestay experience. The recipient will be responsible of traveling alone. This will require the recipient to transfer (if necessary) and navigate the airport on his or her own to any connecting flights, go through customs and arrive to the final airport destination.

Q: Since I am traveling by myself, do I need to travel as an unaccompanied minor?

A: It depends upon your age and the airline on which you are flying. Typically, youth, ages 15 years and under, may incur a UM (unaccompanied minor) fee. If this is the case, AILI staff will explain the process to you and your parents.

Q: Do I have to speak the foreign language of the country I would like to visit to apply for the scholarship?

A: Our AILI Scholarship is not a language program, it's a cultural immersion program and we do not require our scholarship applicants to know the language or be studying the language of the country they would like to visit.

Q: What role does AILI play in the scholarship homestay experience?

A: AILI staff is available to you and the host family 24 hours a day. Please do not hesitate to call with questions or concerns. It is extremely important that you contact your coordinator immediately should any misunderstanding occur with the host family or if you should have any complaints or concerns.

Q: What are my responsibilities as a scholarship recipient?

A: As part of your responsibilities as a scholarship recipient you must send the Denver office a written summary of your trip that includes photos as well as a short video summary. We will post these on the AILI website as a blog. Also, at the end of your travels, please send us a 1-2 page final "report" about

what you've learned, what it meant to you, etc. Please also include tips for us or for next year's students—the things you wish you'd known before you left.

Q: If I am awarded a scholarship, is my family required to host a student during that same season?

A: Yes. If you receive a scholarship, your family is required to host a student in the same homestay season.

Q: Is my family required to host a student from the same country I am traveling to?

A: If you have the opportunity to participate in a mutual exchange program, your family must agree to host the student whose family hosts you. If it is not a mutual exchange your family is still required to host for Compass USA, but does not need to be from the same country, *(Please note that Compass USA tries to make this a genuine exchange; so that you are hosted by a scholarship winner's family from another country and your family in turn will host the scholarship winner. This is not always possible, but it is our goal).*

Q: Will my family receive a stipend for hosting the mutual exchange student from the family that hosts me?

A: No. Your family will not receive a homestay stipend for hosting a scholarship student.

Q: What travel documents will I need to provide for my overseas visit?

A: You must have a current passport that will not expire within six months after you return from your overseas visit. If you are selected for the homestay in China, it will be necessary for you to purchase and obtain a visa. If you are traveling from China to Europe or the USA, it will be necessary for you to obtain and purchase a visa.

Q: What kind of travel insurance is required for scholarship recipients?

A: Insurance coverage for your homestay is an important element of security and peace of mind for you, your parents and the host families. The coverage from AILI insurance begins upon boarding the airplane for the departure flight and terminates upon arrival of the return flight in the United States. If you have additional insurance, bring the information with you and give it to your coordinator upon arrival in your homestay community.

Q: What if I don't get the scholarship; are there other opportunities to travel abroad?

A: Compass USA offers various opportunities for teenagers to travel abroad; from study camps in Spain and France to homestay opportunities. Check out the website at www.compass-usa.net for more information!