



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

Dear Student,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, welcome to the Secondary School Student exchange program. This program is a great opportunity for you to experience the culture and diversity of the United States. As a participant in this program, you are among thousands of high school students from around the world serving as your country's citizen ambassador in the United States. We want your experience to be rewarding.

As a participant in this program, you will attend a public or private high school, while living with an American host family who has opened their home and hearts to welcome you to the United States. With a positive attitude and respect for others, you will have a close relationship with your host family.

We know that you may have some worries about leaving your family and friends to come to the United States. Those are very normal feelings. Your decision to come to the United States is exciting to us and your health, safety, and well-being are our most important concern. If you ever feel unsafe, or are in a situation that makes you uncomfortable in any way, please notify your sponsor as soon as possible. If you don't think your sponsor is paying attention or is not helping, you may always contact the Department of State directly through the phone number or email address provided below. Somebody will answer and will help you.

Your sponsor will provide you with an identification card, which lists your host family, home address, and telephone numbers. You will also find on this card separate telephone numbers for immediate contact with your sponsor and the sponsor's local representative, as well as the Department of State's toll free number (1-866-283-9090) and email address ([jvisas@state.gov](mailto:jvisas@state.gov)). You should keep this card with you at all times and contact us if you have any concerns about your health, safety, or well-being.

Best wishes for a rewarding and fun experience. Welcome to the United States!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robin J. Lerner".

Robin J. Lerner  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Private Sector Exchange