



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, DC 20547

Dear Student,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, welcome to the Secondary School Student Program. This program is a great opportunity for you to experience the culture and diversity of the United States. 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.

You will attend a public or private secondary 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 concerns about leaving your family and friends to come to the United States. Those are very normal concerns. Your decision to come to the United States is important to us and your health, safety, and well-being are our top goal. If you feel your personal health and safety is threatened, or are in a situation that makes you uncomfortable, please notify your sponsor as soon as possible. If your sponsor is not responsive to your concerns, please contact the Department of State directly through the phone number or email address provided below. A Department staff person will be available to help you.

Your sponsor will provide you with an identification card, which lists your host family, placement 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 24 hour toll free number (1-866-283-9090) and email address (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 black ink, appearing to read "Robin J. Lerner".

Robin J. Lerner
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Private Sector Exchange