

Post-Arrival Orientation: Required Logistics

To Do

- ▶ Reserve appropriate venue
- ▶ Alert participants and their families of the orientation date
- ▶ Select group leaders/facilitators and returnees to assist with the orientation
- ▶ Gather required materials and make copies of necessary handouts

Post-Arrival Materials Required

- ▶ Flip Chart
- ▶ Markers & one writing utensil per participant
- ▶ Ball of string
- ▶ Collection of every-day objects
- ▶ Index Cards
- ▶ A stack of extra writing paper
- ▶ Masking Tape

Post-Arrival Handouts on Wiki

- ▶ Check-in Sheets for Participants, Returnees, and Host Siblings (to be filled out upon arrival at orientation)
- ▶ Orientation Schedules for participants – customized by Orientation Coordinator

For more detailed information about planning and organizing orientation events, please see Training Modules section of the AFS Wiki. http://www.afswiki.org/index.php/Training_Modules

Choosing Group Leaders and Facilitators

As the Orientation Coordinator, it is your responsibility to select the rest of your orientation team.

In general, when picking people to serve as group leaders/facilitators, it is essential that these people have the following qualities:

- ▶ Trustworthy
- ▶ Responsible
- ▶ Able to gain rapport with teens
- ▶ Experienced leading groups of teenagers
- ▶ Adept at communicating clearly in a cross-cultural setting

In particular, concerning the Personal Safety section of this orientation, it is important that the facilitator have a high level of comfort dealing with potentially sensitive topics such as:

- ▶ dating,
- ▶ sexual intercourse,
- ▶ alcohol, drug, and sexual abuse.

Participants often relate better to a younger person in this role, whom they perceive as being more in touch with the realities currently faced by teens. If the facilitator is uncomfortable with the subject matter it is likely that the participants will also be uncomfortable and the discussion will lag as a result. Please ensure that you provide the

facilitator with the activity well in advance of the orientation in order to allow him or her ample time to review the material and to discuss any related concerns with you prior to the event.

AFS also recommends that you invite several recent (within the last couple of years) AFS Returnees, former and current teenage host-siblings to participate in this session. The participation of these individuals will enrich the group discussion and the Check-In sheet for Host Siblings will help you identify problem areas for them that need to be addressed with the liaison or otherwise. Returnee participation in this event is a way for them to “give back” and also process their experience via their own Check-In sheet discussion. During the other portions of the orientation Returnees may participate in Re-Entry Orientation Activities found in the Re-Entry Orientation Leader’s Guide.

Special Activity Instruction—Case Studies

In the Personal Safety and Wellbeing portion of the Post-Arrival Orientation, there is one session in which the Orientation Coordinator becomes the main facilitator: Case Studies. Due to the fact that this activity covers some sensitive topics it needs clear and consistent debriefing.

For “Case Studies” in particular, it is important for those leading the groups to feel comfortable discussing sensitive topics such as sex, alcohol and drug use, etc. Be sure to select appropriate volunteers/returnees for this task.

Gather all orientation groups together to introduce the activity:

The following activity will present us with examples of risky, complicated situations to consider. It is important, while on exchange, to be able to recognize and remove yourself from situations that might put your safety at risk.

Each group will be given one scenario to discuss amongst themselves. Your group leader will guide a discussion based on the questions that follow each scenario. Then we will come back together as a larger group to discuss what we have read and learned.

Each group should be prepared to share 1-3 things that they have learned from this case study with the rest of the group.

If there are more groups than scenarios, then some groups can do the same scenario. It is preferable to have more than one group do a particular case study than to create larger groups. Choose one of the groups to present and incorporate the others who did that scenario in the debrief session.

Refer the group leader to the Group Leader version of one of the case studies in the Leader’s Guide (All case studies are located on pages 14 - 17 in the group leader’s guide and pages 11 - 17 of the student handbook.) Rotate from group to group ensure that progress is being made.

For a small orientation group, the above instructions may not make sense—there may only be enough students for one group. In this case, simply lead a discussion with the group as indicated in the Group Leader’s Guide and debrief the situation after each scenario is reviewed.