



Mid-Stay Orientation

Notes to the Orientation Coordinator

Sensitive Discussions

As the Orientation Coordinator, you will want to choose a facilitator for this session that is comfortable discussing such topics as dating, sexual intercourse, alcohol, drug, and sexual abuse. 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.

The following sections have elements that could become extremely sensitive in nature:

- ▶ Personal Safety and Wellbeing
- ▶ How Do You Communicate?

Suggestions

- ▶ If you have Muslim students in your group, and enough countries represented in each male/female group, you may want to divide the large group into two smaller groups of males and females. Some Muslim students may be uncomfortable discussing these topics in mixed company and this separation may lessen their discomfort and result in a richer discussion.
- ▶ It may be helpful to have a Team Support Coordinator to be one of the group facilitators, or be present at the orientation so they can watch for red flags.

Returnee & Host Sibling Involvement

In the beginning of the Mid-Stay Orientation there is an option to perform the Checking-In activity for the Host Siblings and Returnees who might be present. AFS also recommends that you invite any teenage host siblings to participate in the orientation sessions as well as recent returnees.

Having volunteers and returnees of all ages participate in this activity will keep the focus of discussion on the realities currently faced by teens while enriching the group discussion. In addition, returnee participation in this event is a way for them to “give back” and also to continue to process their exchange experience.

Mid-Stay Participant/Host Family Homework Assignment

In preparation for the Midstay Orientation, participants are asked to complete a short homework assignment with their host families in the form of having a discussion and jotting down answers to questions. Please distribute the homework assignment (located on the Midstay Orientation Wiki Page) with the Orientation Announcement.