



## **RULES/STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

### **1.- The Families.**

**Speak and Travel** carefully selects families to participate in the program. However, no placement is guaranteed for a certain "type" of family. Students should adapt to the family lifestyle and obey the family's rules.

Our families decide to host students without receiving compensation and without expecting anything in exchange. Without a doubt, they deserve all our respect and gratefulness. We must show them an exemplary behavior. We shall respect their culture, and also, teach them about ours.

### **2.- Expenses.**

The host family is responsible for housing, and three meals per day. In the case of eating out in a restaurant, student will offer himself to cover the cost of his/her meal, and each family will decide with freedom. Students are responsible for all other personal expenses and they must have money available for this (we recommend to travel with approximately \$400,00.) Students must never borrow money from the host family but in the case that they have to do so, they must reimburse them before returning to Spain. Students must make all long distance telephone calls with a calling card, cell phone or calling collect, they're not allowed to use the host family's phone.

### **3.- Family life.**

Students are expected to spend their free time with their host families. Students can make plans to visit other students, but always with the given permission of the host family. In accordance with the purpose of this program, students agree to use English as much as possible. It is a total local of respect to use the Spanish language with other students while spending time with host family members.

### **4.- Travelling.**

Travel outside the local area other than with the host family is not allowed at any time. When travelling, **Speak and Travel** must be advised and have a contact phone number. Students are not allowed to hitchhike or drive any car, motorcycle or other motorized vehicle.

### **5.- Laws.**

Students must abide by local, state and federal laws. If a student breaks any of these laws, the student will be sent home.



**5.1 Alcohol.** Drinking alcoholic beverages, is illegal for people under the age of 21, and it is considered a serious offense to do so. In their culture, it is neither well-seen nor accepted for minors to drink, and that includes beers and wines. Do not seek for their understanding or comprehension on this matter, because you will not find it. All illegal use, purchase, or possession of alcohol, drugs, or other harmful controlled substances is prohibited.

**5.2 Tobacco.** It is illegal for anyone under 18 years of age to purchase or use tobacco in the U.S. It will also not be accepted by families where a family member also smokes. If you smoke you'll be sent back to Spain.

**5.3 Shoplifting.** Shoplifting is a serious offense in the USA and students will be sent home.

**5.4 Internet.** It is strictly forbidden to visit websites that aren't suitable for children and teenagers.

## **6. Religion**

You will find a great diversity of religions in the US, being most of them Christians: Baptist (the greatest affiliation in the South of the country), Methodist, Presbyterians, Catholics.. They all practice and live their religions deeply, following its rules and doctrines. Many families will bless the table daily, may read the Bible at some times, and they will assist to Church on Sunday.

Make a good use of this opportunity to enrich your culture and knowledge, and to learn about other religions. Go with them to a Religious service, and they will be pleased to introduce you to their Preacher and other Church members and friends. But mainly, show respect for their beliefs, and never make any offensive comments about their Faith.

## **7.- Dangerous Activities.**

Insurance doesn't cover for any potentially dangerous activity such as skydiving, hang gliding, or bungee jumping. For all potentially dangerous activities that are allowed, the student must ask their host and natural family for permission and take all extra precautions appropriate for the activity, such as wearing a helmet, body gear, etc. They must also take out insurance coverage for these activities.

## **8.- New Technologies.**

It is important to use new technologies in the proper way. You cannot spend a large part of your time looking for a Wifi connection, because you'll interrupt the rhythm of the trips or you'll occupy your host family's computer. You have to understand that you should make a considerable effort to limit contact with family members and friends in Spain. This rule applies to all methods of communication (whatsapp, skype, facebook etc.)



**9.- Non-compliance.**

Students must abide by all decisions made by Speak and Travel and the host family. Students and parents must understand that infringement of any of these rules will result in dismissal from the program and immediate return to Spain. Should this occur, there will be no refund of fees. The student's natural parents will be held responsible for any additional expenses.

Father's / mother's signature :

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Student's signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date :

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