

## COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

### HOMESTAY PROGRAM - GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Thank you for your interest in College of the Rockies. Our "Homestay Program" offers international students the opportunity to live with a Canadian family while studying at College of the Rockies. Many great friendships have developed between international students and Canadian families as a result of homestay. Students who have an open mind, a keen interest in learning about and sharing in different cultures, and a willingness to accept the responsibilities as well as the benefits of being a homestay student, will find homestay a rewarding experience.

#### **Homestay with a Canadian Family:**

It is important that homestay students understand that one of the main purposes of homestay, aside from learning English, is to give international students the opportunity to learn about and share in the daily life of a Canadian family. Students should not expect families to change their normal lifestyle while hosting a student. A homestay family's home is not a hotel and family members are not maids, chauffeurs, or tour guides. A homestay family is a real family that is expected to treat a homestay student as a member of the family.

#### **Canadian Families:**

International students are reminded that Canada is a very multi-cultural country and that Canadians come from a wide variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. International students should also note that a Canadian "family unit" may differ from what is commonly considered a "family" in other countries. There are many different types of families found in Canada: young couples with small children; middle-aged couples with older children; young or old couples without children; single parents with children; blended families (couples with children from previous marriages); older people whose adult children have moved away; etc. We welcome many different types of families into our Homestay Program, and they are chosen because they have shown interest in meeting people from other cultures and they want to open their homes to International students.

Each family participating in the College of the Rockies Homestay Program has been interviewed and screened by an International Education staff member.

#### **How to Apply for the Homestay Program:**

Complete the Application for Homestay form and return to College of the Rockies International department, attention to Saori (Chao) Knezevic by email at [homestay@cotr.bc.ca](mailto:homestay@cotr.bc.ca) ***at least two months before the Semester begins.***

After we have received your completed application, we will try our best to find you a suitable homestay family. Please understand, however, that there are times when all your preferences may not necessarily be met.

You will receive detailed information about your homestay family approximately one month before the semester begins. Students should notify the College well in advance of all arrival details (exact date, time, and flight number) so that we can arrange the host family to welcome the students at Cranbrook airport.

#### **Transportation:**

College of the Rockies students can take the public transit system (bus) to and from the College for free. Free airport pick-up service is also available if you give College an advance notice with your detailed arrival information.

### **Homestay Fees:**

- Non-refundable homestay application fee -- \$35 due and payable to College of the Rockies at the time of application.
- Current homestay fee -- \$650 per month
- Students are responsible for paying the homestay fee directly to the family on the day the students move in with the homestay family. Students will then pay the homestay fee to the homestay family each month on the monthly anniversary of the day the student arrived and moved in.

### **What Does the Homestay Fee Cover?**

- a. Private furnished room
- b. Three meals per day
- c. Laundry facilities (arrangements for laundry will vary from home to home)
- d. Linens (bed linens and towels)
- e. Miscellaneous items that are used by all members of the household (soap, detergent, toilet papers, etc.)
- f. Local phone calls (within Cranbrook)

### **What are the things students are responsible for?**

- a. Own toiletries such as toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, and other items of personal nature.
- b. Long distance telephone calls (including taxes).
- c. Any extra special meal requirements such as halal meat, lactose free products, specialty vegetarian products, etc.
- d. Most homestay families will have internet access in their homes, however, it is not required that they provide computer or internet access to students. Some families may decide to charge extra for this service.

### **Household Routines:**

Household routines and rules will vary from home to home. Families and students are encouraged to discuss "house rules" and preferences when the student first arrives in order to avoid problems and misunderstandings in the future. If a student ever feels that he/she is being treated unfairly, he/she should try to discuss it with the host family, or come and see one of our international education staff members. Students should remember at all times that they are living in someone's home and not in a hotel. All students who apply for our Homestay Program should be active and be participating members of the host family's household. Students should not expect to be treated as guests for the duration of their stay.

### **For More Information, please contact:**

Saori (Chao) Knezevic  
Phone: 1-250-489-8248

Homestay Coordinator  
E-mail: [homestay@cotr.bc.ca](mailto:homestay@cotr.bc.ca)





**COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES**  
**HOMESTAY AGREEMENT FOR STUDENTS**

Although College of the Rockies cannot guarantee a perfect placement, we will do our best to place you in a home where you will be happy. If there are any problems, the international education staff will meet with the student and the family to discuss the problem and try to find a solution.

1. By making this application, I agree to pay Cdn\$650 to my homestay family upon my arrival and then each month of the monthly anniversary of the day I arrived. The monthly homestay fee is non-refundable.

Homestay fee includes:

- Furnished room
- Three meals a day
- Local telephone calls
- Laundry facilities
- Bed linens and towels
- Miscellaneous items such as: laundry detergent, toilet paper, hand soap, etc.

Most homestay families will have internet access in their homes, however, it is not required they provide computer or internet access to students. Some families may decide to charge extra for this service.

Families are required to prepare and eat dinner with their students. Students may have to prepare their own breakfast and lunch. (Some exceptions may apply, please read the student guidelines).

Student's responsibilities:

- Notifying the homestay coordinator of any concerns or problem with the homestay placement.
- Buying a long distance phone card or paying for any long distance phone calls made on the family's phone line.
- Own toiletries such as: toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, and other items of personal nature.
- Pay for any damages or any other expenses that are not covered by the homestay fee, before I leave my homestay family.
- Pay for any extra special meal requirements such as halal meat, lactose free products, etc.
- Participate in domestic routines such as cleaning, cooking, etc.
- Responsible for cleaning own room, tidying up behind myself in common areas, and notifying my homestay family of my daily schedule.
- Respect my homestay family's rules with regard to noise, visitors, use of the telephone, transportation, etc.

2. Termination of homestay -- If I decide to move out, I will give my homestay family and College of the Rockies at least 15 days notice. If not enough notice is given, I will pay an extra half month homestay fee to my homestay family.
3. I agree to get medical insurance when I arrive.
4. I understand that my personal belongings will not be covered by my host family's insurance and that I should obtain my own personal insurance.
5. I have read the information about homestay provided by College of the Rockies, and I understand that all my preferences regarding a homestay family may not necessarily be met. I accept to be a responsible and active member of my homestay family's household. I agree to abide by all conditions. I authorize College of the Rockies to share this information with my homestay family.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year/Month/Day)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_