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ALAJUELA PROGRAM – SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Updated 1/14/2011

Attention: Program participants & parents/guardians.
Please read carefully, sign and return to AmeriSpan.

1. Costa Rican host families and ICLC Administration will only accept minor participants if there is a serious compromise to obey all rules and guidelines established, including the rule of zero tolerance to alcohol, cigarettes or consumption of any other drugs.
2. During their participation on ICLC Language Program minor participants will not have an escort. The host family and ICLC Administration and staff will only play a supervisory role.
3. Minors participating on the program, without an adult companion, must be mature enough to come and go to ICLC campus, to come and go to the closest towns and to come and go the host family house independently.
4. **In regards to arrival date:** If the minor participant will be traveling to Costa Rica accompanied by a flight attendant, parents in the home country must inform ICLC registration office immediately, to provide the name of the person that will receive the minor participant at Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in Costa Rica.
5. If in the home country or on the way to Costa Rica parents find out that there is a flight delay or a flight cancellation, please immediately contact the following emergency numbers. ICLC directors will contact the Costa Rican host family assigned.

Sonia Rojas C., ICLC Administrative Director: (506) 2438-6200
Ronny García M, ICLC Academic Director: (506) 8382-6384

6. Minor participants are expected to be courteous and respectful guests and must obey the house rules and local laws.
7. Each host family has personal house rules, reason for participants to be in constant communication with the host parents, in order to follow their advice and recommendations.
8. The home stay is for participants only; guests or other minor participants cannot be brought to the homestay.
9. The host family will offer the participant typical Costa Rican breakfast and typical dinner (lunch is not included in the program). Host families will not change their food habits while receiving participants from other countries.
10. Please, never throw food on the garbage; if the minor participant cannot eat something is acceptable to leave food in the plate.
11. The host family will be in charge of laundry but the minor participant is responsible for washing underwear daily. Please never leave dirty undergarments in the bedroom.
12. The first Monday of the program only, one member of the host family will teach the participant the way to ICLC campus and will also wait for the participant in the afternoon, to show him or her the way back to the house.

13. On the first Monday, the participant will receive an orientation session at ICLC campus. Every day after the first Monday, minors will come and go to ICLC campus, to the closest towns and to the host family house independently.
14. Minor participants must have a budget of around \$6 per day to use taxi service to come to ICLC campus in the morning and go to the house after each activity in the afternoon.
15. Minor participants must have a budget of around \$7 per day to buy lunch at ICLC campus.
16. During weekdays, minor participants are expected to stay at ICLC campus after lunch to participate on ICLC afternoon activities offered at no extra charge, for one additional hour (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays). On Thursdays the afternoon activity will be out of ICLC campus, ICLC escort will be provided and all participants must have a budget for transportation and entrance fee, if there is any.
17. Minor participants also need to have a budget of around \$1 per day to use internet service at ICLC campus, to keep in touch with family and friends from the home country.
18. Participants cannot make phone calls from the homestay. Only parents in the home country can call the participant at the homestay daily (after 6:00 p.m.), and it is customary to keep calls brief.
19. At ICLC reception office participants can buy calling cards to make international calls from the public telephone service available on campus (at Reception office). The cost of the calling card is around \$6 for 8 to 15 minutes (time varies according to places called).
20. Every day, participants are expected to be home at **6:00 p.m.** In Costa Rica it gets dark around 6:00 p.m. and after dark streets will be solitary. Going out of the house when is dark could be very dangerous and risky.
21. If the host family informs ICLC Administration that a minor participant disrespected the **6:00 p.m. curfew**, parents/guardians in the home country will be informed immediately through e-mail or phone call, the participant will return to the home country before the end of the program and no refunds will be provided.
22. If the minor participant needs a special permission to go out past 6:00 p.m., parents in the home country will need to inform ICLC Administration first. In this specific case the minor participant must be accompanied by an adult group leader, must come and go in taxi service or private transportation and arrival to the host family must be at 10:00 p.m. as late.
23. In regards to weekend trips: ICLC will provide supervision on some trips that will be offered for minor participants. Please request the list with dates and prices if you are interested.
24. To be able to book other weekend activities, minors must have parents' consent permitting the minor participant to travel independently. Travel independently is with **NO ICLC supervision** at all.
25. For minors, travel independently on an overnight trip **IS NOT permitted at all.** When traveling independently the minor participant must return to the house the same day of the trip and before **6:00 p.m.**
26. **Travel independently has high risks** and parents in the home country must take action to any unexpected situation that might arise during the minor's independent trip. This includes traveling to Costa Rica to resolve a grave incident or any other serious situation. Travel costs for the parent's trip to Costa Rica will be covered for parents.



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27. Minor participants cannot enter, for any reason, to bars or discotheques. If ICLC Administration is informed that a minor participant disrespects this important rule, parents/guardians in the home country will be immediately informed through e-mail or phone call.
28. **Drugs and alcohol are banned completely.**
29. Minor participants cannot buy any type of alcoholic beverages in a supermarket or store, because that action goes against the Costa Rican legislations.
30. It is absolutely forbidden for minor participants to come to ICLC or to stay in the home of the Costa Rican host family under the effects of drugs or alcohol.
31. Any use of drug or alcohol may cause the immediate termination as a student of this Institution, including cancellation of the host family program and no refunds will be provided.
32. **In regards to change on departure date:** Parents must contact ICLC Administration directly, if necessary to request an extension of the Program. Extra homestay days are available only for courteous and respectful participants. The extra charge for additional host family accommodation will be \$25 per night.
33. **In regards to airport transfer on departure date:** make sure to inform the family in writing, ahead of time, exact departure time and date. The host family will drop off the minor participant in front of Juan Santamaría International Airport because only passengers are allowed to go inside the terminal. In some occasions, instead of going to the Airport, the host family could provide a well-known taxi service. The family will pay for the service.
34. If for some reason the minor participant misses the plane on departure date, the participant must contact ICLC emergency numbers immediately (2438-6200 or 8855-1036) to return to the same host family accommodation. Minor participants are not allowed to spend a night in a hotel accommodation, alone. Additional charge for accommodation must be covered if this incident happens.
35. ICLC reserves the right to refuse to serve, cancel and/or terminate participation for any person who fails to comply with the policies of ICLC program, or for any other reason deemed necessary at the sole discretion of ICLC Administration. We reserve the right without escort or refund to send home any participant who violates the rules stated above at the expense of the participant or his/her family.

Parents/guardians agreement to terms:

I have read and fully understood the specific 35 guidelines as explained in this 4 pages waiver.

1. **Mother's name (1)** _____ Signature _____

Emergency telephone number: _____ E-mail address _____

Further, I have also read and understood the information in regards to independent travel and with a check mark:

Yes _____ I authorize my child to travel independently only for one day or
No _____ I **do not** authorize my child to travel independently



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2. Father's name (2) _____ Signature _____

Emergency telephone number: _____ E-mail address _____

Further, I have also read and understood the information in regards to independent travel and with a check mark:

Yes _____ I authorize my child to travel independently only for one day or
No _____ I **do not** authorize my child to travel independently

3. Minor participant agreement to terms:

I have read and fully understand the specific guidelines as explained in this waiver. I agree to abide all school and host family rules, curfews and policies which may be conveyed to me while participating in the Alajuela Program.

Minor Participant's name _____ Signature _____

Participant's e-mail address _____

***In regards to a river rafting adventure, please review the following page:**

The river rafting experience is a high risk adventure. If minor participants wish to participate in a river rafting activity parents must sign an additional consent.



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Very important information

* In regards to the river rafting trip:

It is indispensable that parents and participants are informed that from June to October it is rainy season in Costa Rica and river rafting is an adventure trip with high risks.

If you agree that your son or daughter participates in this hazardous activity you must be aware that neither ICLC nor Natural Adventures will be responsible for any accidents or incidents that may occur during the excursion.

Please complete the following information with the name of the participant and re-confirm that your son or daughter has your approval to participate in the river rafting trip.

Without parents consent signed, minor participants will not be permitted to register on this trip.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Sonia Rojas
ICLC Administrative Director

Parents consent and participant's personal information:

I give my permission to my daughter/son _____, to go on a river rafting adventure. Name of the participant

Parent's signature

Parent's printed name

Parent's telephone # _____

Parent's e-mail address _____

Date _____