

Home Hospitality Guidelines



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Offering a short stay in the home of a Scout family can be a thoroughly rewarding experience for everyone concerned. However, in keeping with our commitment to the wellbeing of young people, the following guidance is offered.

1. Hosts

- A welcoming, clean, comfortable and safe home, with preferably two guests at each home
- Each guest to have their own bed and separate bedroom (only sharing with someone their own age and sex)
- A family with members of the family the same age as the guests
- A family that understands the needs of young people (emotional, cultural, healthcare etc) and can respond to their guest's behaviour in a positive and acceptable way
- A family that can take things in their stride and be open to different attitudes
- A family that can be flexible, with routines that support their guests
- A family that accepts the Scout Association's policies and codes of practice and understands that they have a duty of care to their guests. A copy of the 'Yellow Card' should be provided for each host.

2. Safety

- Adequate levels of home insurance (including public liability)

- A safe home (smoke detection, means of escape, etc)
- Motor vehicles should be MOT'ed, have appropriate insurance and only be driven by authorised adults
- It is good practice that all adults in the household complete a CRB disclosure [England or Wales] or a CE form [Scotland or Northern Ireland].

3. The Hospitality Experience

- A programme that provides time for relaxation and privacy as well as new experiences
- Adequate meals to be provided, taking into account religious and other obligations
- Religious obligations to be provided for wherever possible
- Involve the guests in normal family life as far as possible
- Provide an opportunity if required for the guests to phone home
- Keep in touch with the co-ordinator

4. Briefing for Hosts by the Co-ordinator

- Reinforcement of the above
- Information in writing about the programme
- Reminders of Scout Association policies (especially Young People First)

The Scout Information Centre

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- Information on guests' diet, religious obligations, allergies etc
- Explanation of financial position
- Provide emergency phone numbers and contacts

5. Role of the Co-ordinator

- Be the emergency contact for hosts and guests
- Provide contact with overseas Scout Associations
- Deal with problems (including critical issues like abuse) in accordance with Association policies
- Monitor progress (and remove guests from homes if required)
- Encourage hosts and guests and thank everyone for their efforts
- Work with the team providing any general programme