



**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING**  
Intercultural Exchange Programs

## JUNE SUPPORT TIPS

Soon, the last of the students will be departing for their home countries, and things will gradually return to normal. In the meantime, talk with host families and students about how to share their YFU story with family and friends by sharing this **self-guided worksheet!**

We hope these timely tips will provide you with the materials necessary to have comfortable and meaningful conversations during your monthly meetings. As always, thank you for the work you do, YFU could not exist without volunteers!

### SUPPORT TIPS

#### HOW TO SAY GOODBYE

Throughout the month of May there are likely to be many reminders that students' and host families' time together is coming to a close. Families will likely attend final student performances, sporting events or award ceremonies, reminding them of their student's fast-approaching departure. It can be difficult to know how to say goodbye. As an Area Rep you can help in this process.

#### NO SCHOOL? MAKE PLANS!

Some students will have nearly a month of free time once school has ended and before they leave the US. It's important that they make plans for this time to count. Instead of sleeping until noon, encourage them to participate in community service or serve as a YFU Ambassador in the community.

#### OUTSTANDING BILLS

Please help your host families and students clear up loose ends such as medical bills or other money owed. If a student leaves without doing so, the burden often falls upon the host family to resolve these issues.

#### RE-ENTRY ORIENTATIONS

Re-Entry Orientations generally occur in May or June. Remind your students and host families about the importance of attending the local Re-Entry orientation and why. This orientation is designed to help students and families reflect on and begin to process the exchange experience, prepare to say goodbye and think about their roles with YFU into the future.

#### A TIME OF THANKS

If you haven't done it yet, June is a good time for all of us to pause and say thank you. YFU Area Reps across the country are often the only YFU representatives to have direct contact with our students and host families. This is a great honor and a great responsibility. We thank you for accepting this responsibility and helping YFU support thousands of healthy and successful exchanges each year.

As the Area Rep, please thank your host families for volunteering with YFU. You might encourage them to host again. Encourage your students to thank their host family, host school and the wider community. There are many ways to do this. Students could start working on a thank you letter to their host family, write a **letter to the editor** of the local newspaper, or write a **letter to the school**.

#### STRESS BAGGAGE COST!

Stress to students that airlines are being more restrictive about luggage and that there will likely be large additional costs for bags, especially if the bags are too heavy. It might be a worthwhile investigation for the student to start thinking about if they can bring a third suitcase and research which option (shipping a box or bringing an extra suitcase) is more cost effective.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL - BAGGAGE FEES

Tell your student to call their airline or check online to confirm baggage allowances and fees for his/her flight! There are always high fees for oversized, over weight or excess bags. YFU is never responsible for these fees. Here are some guidelines on fees, though they may have changed, so it is the student's responsibility to verify their accuracy.

#### UNITED AIRLINES (as of May 1st)

- Between US and Europe: First bag is free, second bag is \$100.
- Between US and Japan: First and second bags are free.
- Between US and China, Korea, Australia: First bag is free, second bag is \$70.
- Any bag more than 50lbs (23 kg) costs an additional \$200-\$400. The cost to check a third bag cost is \$200.

#### **AMERICAN AIRLINES (as of May 1st)**

- Between US and Europe: First bag is free, second bag is \$160.
- Between US and Japan or China: First and second bags are free.
- Between US and South America: First bag is free, second bag is \$70.
- Any bag more than 50lbs (23 kg) costs an additional \$100-\$450.

#### **SHIPPING PACKAGES OVERSEAS**

YFU USA has found that, often it is cheaper to check a third luggage vs. shipping one's belongings. However if your student still have too much, there are several shipping options available. Encourage your students to check out [ups.com](https://www.ups.com), [fedex.com](https://www.fedex.com), [usps.gov](https://www.usps.gov) to calculate the most accurate estimate for their shipping needs. Again shipping packages is very expensive and not the responsibility of host families to arrange.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

#### **END OF THE YEAR TRAVEL**

Remember, a **Permission To Travel Form** must be turned into the District Office if students are traveling with their natural parents or host families at the end of the school year. This form must be turned in before any tickets are purchased and at least two weeks prior to the travel occurring.

#### **TRAVEL INFORMATION - HEADING HOME**

The YFU Travel Department sends each student a letter approximately 2-3 weeks before their departure from the US. The letter includes a copy of the student's electronic ticket and detailed travel safety information.

#### **MISSING CONTACT REPORTS**

You must also ensure before the students leave that you have completed any outstanding contact reports. It is critical that your monthly contacts are documented before the student(s) leave. The US Department of State audits our contact reports well after an exchange experience has ended. Thank you for helping us stay in compliance with the Department of State.

If you have any questions about Monthly Contacts, **please contact your Support Service Manager!**