



World Flags Connection

For Host Families, Students and Volunteers

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Nominate a Host Family for 2010-2011 2
- Scholarships for US Students 2

Important Dates:

June 28, 2010

End of Stay

Horicon
Dodge Entertainment Center, 616 Clinton St.
Time: 6:30-8:30

Did your student earn a special honor in academics, sports, music or do something else fantastic?

We want to know!

E-mail your story to Eric Ballas for inclusion in the next newsletter:
ericballas@yahoo.com



Stuffed Suitcases: Planning the Trip Home

Now's the time to throw it out, ship it, or get ready to pay.

Getting to the end of a six-month or year stay as an AFS exchange student is a time full of nervous excitement. There's the apprehension for students leaving their host family and friends in America, juxtaposed with the anticipation of being back in their home county. While questions like "Can I even speak my native language?" and "How I'm I going to live without my new friends?" are pressing, the most important question may be "How am I going to fit all my new stuff into my suitcase?"

With end of stay less than three weeks away, here are a few things to keep in mind when helping your student pack.



Luggage limits can be frustrating. Help your student start planning now!

No Fees, Please!

AFS World Flags has been informed by our central office that students will be allowed to check two bags of 50 pounds or less for free, if they are leaving on the scheduled AFS Departure Day.

At this time, we cannot confirm that all carriers will waive fees for students who are going

on "program release" and not flying out with the main group. Those students should check with their airlines regarding baggage fees.

Students must pay any baggage fees; **Fees will not be paid for, or reimbursed by AFS.**

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From the AFS World Flags Volunteers: Thank you!

Without your support and generosity, we would not be able to help bring these young students from all across the globe here to Wisconsin. So on behalf of all the staff at AFS World Flags, we would like to say "Thank You."
Thank you for sharing your

home. Thank you for your financial sacrifices. Thank you for showing our students Wisconsin and the rest of the United States. And thank you for your patience... we know it's never easy having a teenager in the home, let alone a stranger from another country.

We hope your family enjoyed this experience. If you have recommendations on how we could make it better, please contact AFS World Flags Chair-Elect John Kirchberg at jkirchberg@wildblue.net.

And again, thank you.

AFS World Flags

Area Team Chair

Holly Dowe
dowe@powerweb.net

Area Team Chair-Elect

John Kirchberg
jkirchberg@wildblue.net

For Complete Area Team Roster, [click here](#).

**Volunteers Always
Welcome!**

You don't have to host to take part in AFS! Liaisons are needed for the 2010-2011 school year.

E-mail Eugene Robinson for more information:
robby4afs@gmail.com



Stuffed Suitcases (Continued)

Too Much Stuff?

There's no magic formula for how to deal with extra items that don't fit into a suitcase or carry-on. Students can either ship it, donate it, or trash it.

TSA Reminder

With all the excitement of Departure Day, it's easy for a student to forget basic TSA regulations. Please remind your student to pack all liquids into 3.4 ounce containers, and place all containers in a one-quart-

sized bag. Also, knives and weapons, fireworks, and most lighters are not permitted as carry-on.



Nominate a new Host Family for 2010-2011!

You believed in AFS enough to host. Why not encourage others?

AFS World Flags regularly hosts more students than any other area team in the country (80+), thanks to the tremendous willingness of area families. Despite economic conditions, we managed to place a high number of students this year, but it's never easy. We need your help to continue to find great homes for students from across the globe.

Here are some ways you can get involved, to keep AFS going through 2010:

– **Nominate a Friend or Neighbor to be a Host Family**

E-mail Carol Yohn at AFS World Flags (cey619@wildblue.net) and we can tell them they've been nominated to host.

– **Host an AFS Info Event**

An informational event at your school, church or community

group can help spread the word. If you can schedule it, an AFS volunteer can provide brochures, speak at the event, and bring along one or two extra students.

– **Give us a shout-out on Facebook!**

Remind your friends about us by updating your Facebook status with a link to afs.org. Tell people how your student has impacted your family. Your stories are the best way to spread the word about the [AFS mission](#).

Does Your Son or Daughter Want to be an AFS Student? Scholarships Are Available!

If you have kids, hopefully, the experience of being a host brother or sister has given them an interest in studying abroad.

For students hoping to experience the "trip of a lifetime" sometime soon, now is the time to consider

the scholarship programs which AFS partners with.

A full list can be found online, by clicking [here](#).

Highlights include:

[AFS Global Leaders](#)
 Partial need- and merit based scholarships.

[NSLI-Y Full Scholarships](#)

Scholarships to study Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean Persian, Russian, or Turkish.

[Congress-Bundestag](#)

A program to study in Germany.