



36th SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL PATROL JAMBORETTE

POST JAMBORETTE HOME HOSPITALITY SCHEME NOTES FOR HOSTS

Thank you for agreeing to be a home stay host. Having an international guest to stay in your home is a fun and exciting experience, and one which we hope you will really enjoy. In order to help your hosting go as smoothly as possible these notes have been prepared.

One of the best things about hosting an international guest is the fantastic opportunity to share information about culture and lifestyle in the UK and the country where your guest has come from. Your guest will also want to share information about his/her life and family and also show pictures. It is wonderful to find out about other cultures from someone who is a native, so if he/she seems shy – ask questions.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS / CONTACT NUMBERS

Your guest will have written details of their return travel arrangements and of emergency telephone numbers. If he/she does not provide you with these details please ask to see them. If, for whatever reason, the travel arrangements to your guest's reassembly point are changed, please advise us by contacting the emergency telephone number.

ARRIVAL

On the arrival of the guest, please have a light, flexible first day. He/she will need a day 'at home' to unwind after camp, as well as getting acquainted with you and your home. He/she may be nervous at the prospect of what is ahead. Show them around your home, explain how the shower and toilet work, how to plug in electrical goods etc.

Explain a typical day in your household, including when you get up and go to bed, eating arrangements, bathroom rota, who does what and house rules.

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Chief Commissioner of Scotland Graham Haddock MD FRCS(Paed)
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SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Ideally your guest would have a room of his/her own, but if this is not possible it is essential he/she should only share with people aged under 18 of the same gender. It is essential that your guest has his/her own bed.

MEALS

You will be responsible for meals unless you are notified that other arrangements are in place. You will be advised of any special dietary requirements we are aware of but talk to your visitor about food. He/she may have culture restrictions, a special diet, different eating habits. Your guest may be willing to try new foods but do not be offended if they are rejected. Be prepared for a quick change of menu!

CLOTHES

Your guest may be unaccustomed to local weather so check he/she has adequate clothing. Some guests may like you to do their laundry but in some cases the boys/girls may need to do their own.

PETS

He/she may also not be used to pets, so be sure to explain their habits and check to see if he/she is afraid of them or allergic to them.

TELEPHONE

Do not offer the use of your telephone unless your guests are prepared to pay for calls. Alternatively, perhaps allow your guest one phone call.

The pace of living in many countries is not as fast as in the UK. This could account for speed in dressing, eating, walking and making decisions. The guest will enjoy an active schedule, but active to him/her may not mean the same as it does to you! For many visitors, meeting people, answering the same questions constantly and absorbing new information is tiring for the guest who must do so in a second language the strain is even greater, so, the pace of activities must be slowed down.

LANGUAGE

International guests are expected to understand and speak some English, but naturally their abilities vary. It is very difficult for anyone to use a second language constantly. The interest with which you listen will increase your guest's confidence. His/her fluency will increase with time but be alert to the strain he/she will feel at times.

- Speak clearly, not too quickly, and in complete sentences (use hand gestures).
- Don't raise your voice: if there is a language barrier, repeat what was said more slowly, or rephrase in simpler terms.
- Face your guest so he/she can watch you speak as well as listen.
- Avoid unnecessary slang or abbreviations.
- If your guest giggles, this is sometimes nervousness and really a sign he/she does not understand you.
- A guest may answer yes to a question he/she has not understood, to be polite to the speaker, and to avoid embarrassment. Repeat or rephrase questions just to be sure that you were understood.
- Ensure your guest has someone to talk to in their own language at times, just for relaxation. If an interpreter is needed for a real language problem, use one but encourage him/her to try to also explain in English, and to get the boy/girl to do the same.
- However you communicate, use hands and facial expression to help understanding.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

People from many countries stand much closer to one another than British do. Let your guest set the distance comfortable to him/her. Be careful of your facial expressions, as frowns of concentration can be misread as anxiety. He/she may think you dislike him/her. A sunny, open expression will make friends in any language.

RELIGION

Your guest may need to practise his/her own religion. Keep in mind the necessity for daily and/or weekly observances. Food restrictions should be carefully adhered to. Remember the guest must decide for himself/herself if he/she wishes to attend a religious service other than their own.

RELAXATION

Your guest needs time to himself/herself, so provide some free time during his/her stay, if possible. Remember he/she needs time for personal needs, attend to his/her clothes or just to collect their thoughts. Ensure that he/she has an opportunity for eight hours sleep each night. He/she may not sleep this much, yet he/she can use the time to rest, unwind, prepare for the next day or talk to his/her host family.

RECREATION

Plan events that keep in mind the age, cultures and taste of the guest. Mixed gender activities should be group events only and may not be appropriate for some guests. Guests should not go on individual dates. Recreation plans could include a visit to a museum, concert or play, football games, Scouting events or other local events, which help the guest to gain an impression of life in the community.

Provide your visitor with an opportunity for your visitor to have his/her choice of leisure time activities. He/she may want to sleep late or shop. He/she should not be asked to babysit. Your guest may have friends or relatives in the vicinity of the home stay that he/she wants to contact either by phone or a visit. For your guest's safety, it is important that he/she does not make unaccompanied visits. Visits must only be in the presence of you or his/her leader.

SPENDING MONEY

Each guest is expected to have his/her own personal spending money. Guests may have a great deal of spending money or none. Hosts should be prepared to cope with either but are **NOT** expected to lend or give money or equipment, or to pay for medical emergencies. Consult with your Regional Blair Atholl Coordinator for any serious problem. Guests will also need help in getting value for their money. In general, it is helpful if you do not take them to expensive places.

TREATING THE HOST FAMILY

The guest may want to treat his/her friends or host family to a meal or other activity. By all means let them express their appreciation for hospitality and friendship extended to them. Perhaps the guest would like to cook a traditional meal from his/her own country. Encourage him/her in this activity and prepare the family to enjoy the new cuisine.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

In the event of a medical emergency, the host family is to secure medical assistance, and then notify the Regional Blair Atholl Coordinator/Emergency contact number immediately. The contact phone numbers should be carried at all times. A few precautions, which will prevent many problems, are to ensure that the guest does not become overtired, drinks plenty of fluids and has had his/her special dietary or allergy needs or restrictions attended to.

BEHAVIOUR

Ensure that your guest is not offered anything that is illegal for them in the UK or their

country, for example alcohol or tobacco for certain age groups. If the behaviour of your guest is of concern to you, or you suspect your guest is being abused physically, sexually or emotionally, it is vitally important that you do not be shocked and try to act normally. Contact the emergency contact number. Do not investigate or question further as this may prevent social workers or police from finding out exactly what has happened later.

DEPARTURE

As already noted, you should receive written details of the return travel arrangements from your guest. If not, please ask for the details. If you decide to change the travel arrangements to the reassembly point (e.g. you decide to take your guest by car rather than putting him/her on a train) please contact the emergency number to advise of this. This is necessary as we do arrange to have all trains/buses met by camp personnel.

FINALLY

These notes cannot cover all situations you may find yourself facing. In the event of difficulties please contact the emergency telephone number or your Regional Blair Atholl Coordinator.

Thank you for hosting, and have a great time!