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As a participant in the High School Abroad Program, I and my natural parents or guardians agree to read and abide by the Terms and Conditions outlined below:

The High School Abroad Program is an academic homestay program, based on daily life in the family, school, and community. It is not a travel program. Its purpose is cultural exchange, which requires the willingness to learn and adapt – with understanding and appreciation – to the customs of a new culture, community, and family, which may be very different from one’s own. Students in this program are representatives of their own cultures, and do their best to earn respect for the people of their countries. Reference to Greenheart Travel inherently includes Greenheart Travel’s overseas office with who they cooperate with in the host country.

**General Terms and Conditions:**

1. I agree to accept the host family selected in any part of the country Greenheart Travel welcomes hosts from all races, creeds, colors, and religions). (Note: Host Families must have sufficient financial resources to host: host families are not permitted to proselytize. All host families are thoroughly screened before they are permitted to receive a student. Families are visited in their homes, interviews are conducted and other steps are taken to ensure suitability of the host family.) The host family may be composed of a single parent with child/children or a couple without children living in the home. In addition, I understand that I may have to share a room.

2. I understand that the Local Partner makes the final decision regarding host family and local coordinator selection and that Greenheart Travel is not involved in such personnel decisions.

3. I agree to live as a participating member of the host family and to accept normal family responsibilities and to adapt to and live within the rules and customs of the host family, respecting the host parents as my own. Example: Host parents must approve all of my activities; host parents must know where I am, with whom and when I will return home from the activity, at all times.

4. I agree to maintain a satisfactory level of academic performance and appropriate behavior in school, including completing all coursework and meeting attendance requirements. I shall demonstrate a serious effort and a positive cooperative attitude. Absence from school is permitted only for cases of genuine illness (doctor’s documentation may be requested if there are doubts.) Regular school attendance is required.

5. I agree to obey all laws of the host country and community.

6. I agree NOT to drive or purchase a car, motorbike, or any motor vehicle requiring an operator’s license. Greenheart Travel rules and insurance restrictions prohibit driving any motor vehicle by exchange students. I understand that if I drive cars or other motorized vehicles, I will be subject to immediate program dismissal and repatriation. I understand that I am not allowed to hitchhike at any time during the program.

7. I understand that I am not permitted to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages.

8. I understand that I am not permitted to use drugs that are not prescribed by a licensed doctor.

9. I agree to repay hosts promptly for any and all long distance telephone calls made by me; and to pay for any damage caused to the property of the host family, school, hotel or other site visited during the program.

10. I agree to arrive in the host country with a round-trip international and domestic air tickets. I understand that tickets purchased by me must be approved by Greenheart Travel.

11. I agree to travel to and from the homestay as directed, and during the program to travel only with members of the host family, unless approved by Greenheart Travel.

12. I agree to possess enough spending money to cover personal expenses while in the host country ($400-500 per month is suggested). I shall not lend or borrow personal funds.

13. I agree to abide by all visa restrictions.

14. I agree to accept that perceived or actual epidemics (such as but not limited to, SARS, bird flu or natural disasters) can delay, disrupt, interrupt or cancel programs and agree to assume all risk of any such problems which could result from any such occurrences. I assume the responsibility of attaining natural disaster and repatriation insurance to cover the expense of repatriation under this provision.

15. I agree to accept and abide by the advice and direction of the local representative, partner office in the host country, and the Greenheart Travel office.

16. I authorize the use free of charge of my photo and/or testimonial in any Greenheart Travel promotional material.

**ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION:** Greenheart Travel cooperates with a carefully selected network of partner agencies in the countries where our programs are located. All program applications are subject to acceptance by the appropriate agency. In addition, Greenheart Travel retains complete right to accept, dismiss, decline or retain any student as a participant in the program at any time before or during the program for any reason whatsoever, without liability for refund of payment.

**FAMILY PLACEMENTS:** Greenheart Travel reserves complete right to make host family assignments. Placements are made in all regions and are not based on any local characteristics, such as regional accents or dialects, ethnic character of community, types of industry, economy, weather, etc. The program does not discriminate against host families or participants on the grounds of race, religion, creed, color, or socio-economic level in any area of the country. I shall not demand to be placed in specific regions of the host country or with hosts of a specific socioeconomic or ethnic character.

**CONTACTING MY HOME COUNTRY:** I shall not be in contact with family, friends or relatives in my home country more than twice a month, except in an emergency. Experience has shown that constant communication with natural family and friends disrupts and even prevents cultural adaptation and understanding. I understand that I should use an international calling card or make arrangements with my host family and natural parents for my parents to call at a pre-arranged time and date. In the event that I must make a long distance telephone call from my host family’s home, I understand that I must reimburse my host family for the long distance calls I have made. I understand that I am discouraged from bringing a cell phone while on the program. If I use a cell phone excessively, cell phone use may be restricted.

**E-MAIL, INTERNET AND INSTANT MESSAGING:** Some students have engaged in excessive e-mailing and instant messaging, causing disruption to the adjustment process and daily interaction with the host family. As a general rule, on-line communication should be limited to twice a week for 30 minutes. Internet use should be limited and is left to the discretion of the host family unless it is deemed problematic at which time specific limitations will be set. I understand that I am prohibited from viewing internet sites with sexually explicit content, including but not limited to pornography. I understand that I am discouraged from bringing laptops or purchasing computers while on the program. If I use a computer to communicate online more than what is permitted, computer use may be restricted. I understand that I am responsible for all inappropriate or shocking content that I can have posted on Internet (Myspace, Facebook, etc…). I understand that Greenheart Travel has the right to cancel my participation in the program at any time should my postings be a problem before or during my stay abroad. Repatriation due to cancellation under this provision will be at my own expense.

**VISITS:** I understand that Greenheart Travel has rule that I am not allowed to visit my home country during my program unless an immediate family member (parent/guardian, grandparent, or sibling) becomes gravely ill, seriously injured or dies. All holidays must be spent with my host family. I understand that I am not allowed to receive visits from friends or family members from home during my program. If family members do visit, such a visit must occur at the end of my stay, and permission must be obtained from Greenheart Travel well in advance of the proposed visit. I also may not be accompanied by friends or family members during travel to the host community at the beginning of the program. Permission from Greenheart Travel will not be granted except in very unusual circumstances for visits occurring before the first six months of the yearlong program have concluded. Host families are not expected to provide accommodations for visitors in their homes or elsewhere. Greenheart Travel is not responsible for problems that may result from unauthorized visits, and students whose family or friends arrive without Greenheart Travel knowledge and approval are subject to possible program dismissal.

Visiting home or receiving visits from home at the beginning of or during the course of a program is extremely disruptive to the program. Such visits very often cause the student to feel homesickness afterward, and to go through the challenging adjustment period experienced at the beginning of the program again after the visit. These reactions to visits are hard on both program participants and host families. Because we truly wish for all of our program participants and host families to have positive experiences, we seek to minimize activities that threaten to detract from the positive experience meant to take place between program participant and host family such as visits to or from home.

**TRAVEL:** During the program, I may travel with my host family, or with other adult-supervised school or community groups. Any other travel, whether alone or with peers is permitted only in EXCEPTIONAL cases, with prior approval of Greenheart Travel, and then only after complete itineraries, including names and addresses of people to be visited, have been submitted as part of the travel request.

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA:** Many high schools will not grant diplomas or transcripts to exchange students. The decision whether to grant these are entirely in the hands of each high school. Greenheart Travel has no control over this decision. I understand that I must not put pressure on school authorities to grant me diplomas or transcripts. I am responsible for coordinating the transfer of credits from my high school abroad to my high school in my home country. If I have questions or difficulties, Greenheart Travel staff may be able to assist me in the process; however they cannot guarantee that my home country high school will accept my studies abroad as credit. I shall see my guidance counselor in my home country school to determine what credits I may need to take outside of my studies to ensure that I graduate on time. In addition, my class schedule will be determined upon arrival in my host community. Greenheart Travel can’t guarantee that I will be able to take specific classes, change my schedule, or guarantee that the content of those classes will match my home country’s school’s classes. Instruction is always in the language of the host country.

**FEES:** The fee for the High School Abroad Program covers all expenses which are expressly listed on the Greenheart Travel website at the time my application is submitted. The fee does not cover personal expenses, airfare to/from gateway and port of entry cities (if applicable), t, daily transportation costs, visa fees, passport fees, routine medical examinations, vaccinations, medical costs not covered by insurance, costs of books or other activity fees, school uniforms or the expenses incurred because of premature termination of the student’s program.

**PAYMENT & CANCELLATION POLICY:** Greenheart Travel will not alter its cancellation policy for any reason. If I am concerned about forfeiting program fees in the event I decide to cancel due to events such as a serious illness, death in the family, terrorist attacks, etc., I understand that I should consider purchasing independent trip insurance.

(a) Payment Schedule

* $1000 non-refundable deposit due with submitted application. If application is submitted after the published deadline date, the non-refundable deposit amount due is $2000. If I cancel my program at any time after Greenheart Travel receives my application, my deposit is non-refundable. If Greenheart Travel does not accept me to the program, my deposit will be refunded less a $75 processing fee.
* First payment of $3,000 due within 7 days after acceptance to the program. Flights will not be booked until after first payment is received, if applicable
* Remaining balance due June 1 for fall departures and November 1 for spring departures

(b) Cancellation Policy

* 25% of program fee forfeited up to 12 weeks (more than 84 days) before program start date
* 50% of fee forfeited in cases of cancellation 12 to 4 weeks (84-29 days) before program start date
* 75% of fee forfeited in cases of cancellation 4 to 2 weeks (28-15 days) before program start date
* 100% of fee forfeited less than 2 weeks (14 days or less) before program start date

(c) Deferral Policy

After acceptance, programs may be deferred until the next academic semester following the original start date, dependent upon availability.  All requests for deferral are subject to review on a case by case basis and must be made prior to booking the flight (if applicable). Greenheart Travel reserves the right to deny any deferment request. If the deferment is honored, the non-refundable deposit and amount of the first payment will be retained by Greenheart Travel, to apply toward the new program.

(d)Other Fees - A $25 fee is applied for a returned check. A $25 fee is applied for an incoming bank wire. There is an additional transfer fee if host community is not within 30 miles from port of entry.

**VISAS:** I understand that I am responsible for obtaining a visa if required. Greenheart Travel will provide the supporting documentation. I or my parents are responsible for contacting the closest consulate, verifying application procedures and requirements, and making any necessary appointments. Consulates have full authority to request additional documents to those submitted and request that I and my parents apply in person and/or pick up my visa in person. Greenheart Travel will provide some guidance, but I should always follow the consulate’s guidelines as they are the final authority on all visa matters. Any questions I have about my visa application are best directed to the consulate. In addition, I am responsible for any and all expenses related to acquiring the visa. This may include travel (in some cases flying) to the nearest consulate, translation fees for documents, visa fees, fees for notarization and apostilles for documents.

**INSURANCE:** I understand that I must be covered by illness and accident insurance for the duration of the program. Greenheart Travel includes medical and accident insurance with the program. It is my responsibility to understand any and all policy exclusions.

**LINES OF COMMUNICATION:** I understand that it’s important that I work through the Greenheart Travel network while I am abroad.  In case of any problems or issues that develop while overseas, I shall contact my local representative first.  I understand that Greenheart Travel is in touch with their international partner throughout my program.  If I have a problem with my host placement or an issue that my host family or school cannot help me with, I shall talk to my local coordinator.  He or she will be able to help me work through any problems I may have. I will not contact Greenheart Travel directly, while overseas. If I have a major issue or emergency, Greenheart Travel’s National Office will be in touch with my family to keep them updated on the situation.  I understand that I may not make any changes to my program without the approval of my Local Coordinator.

**EARLY TERMINATION OF PROGRAM**: Greenheart Travel agrees to provide appropriate oral and written warnings to, and probationary periods for, me if my behavior does not meet program expectations, except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement. If I fail to respond appropriately to these warnings, I understand that I may be dismissed from the program. Depending on the severity of the violation, the warning and probation steps may be excluded and I may be dismissed from the program without warning. The sponsoring organization also reserves the right to dismiss me if my mental or physical health (as documented by a trained professional)--e.g., eating disorders, depression, or chronic illness or condition--requires this action. The sponsoring organization also reserves the right to dismiss, without a probationary period, and send me home if my conduct is unlawful, grossly improper or offensive to the host family, community or school. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, illegal drug use, unacceptable sexual behavior, driving, drinking of alcoholic beverages, violation of law, unsatisfactory school performance, unauthorized travel, violent behavior or attacks of any kind, undergoing a major lifestyle change (e.g., getting married) consistent inability or unwillingness to interact productively and/or amicably with the host family or other evidence that I am not capable of, or am unwilling to participate fully in a cross-cultural environment. Greenheart Travel also reserves the right to dismiss me if I am found to have misrepresented myself or provided false information in the program application or otherwise. In the event that I am returned home, either alone or accompanied, parents or guardians are responsible for all expenses above those covered by the fee. Refunds are not made for participants whose programs terminate prematurely.

**Liability Agreement**

I, and my successors and heirs agree to waive and release Greenheart Travel, it’s officers, directors, employees, and agents from any and all claims, damages, and/or costs of whatever kind, whether legal or equitable and whether based on contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise, that I may have now or in the future that may arise out of or that are related in any way to my participation in the High School Abroad Program, including without limitation, any lost, stolen, or damaged property, financial, or economic loss associated with my travel to or from the host country, or premature repatriation, and/or any bodily injuries to myself or third parties. In no event shall Greenheart Travel be liable for indirect, consequential, special, exemplary, or punitive damages or penalties, of any nature, arising out of or related to claims of breach of any term of this Agreement, breach of warranty, express or implied, or negligence.

I agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Greenheart Travel, its affiliates, officers, employees, representatives and agents from and against any claims, liabilities, damages, losses, costs and expenses, including but not limited to reasonable attorney’s fees, resulting from my breach of any of the provisions of this Agreement, or from any act, omission, error, or negligence by me during my participation in the Program.

**Confidentiality**

Any personal information I provide to Greenheart Travel, such as academic transcripts, contact information, age, and any financial information obtained is intended to determine eligibility on the Program.  Greenheart Travel will only share this information with Contracting Partner Agencies for the purpose of securing my placement overseas and assisting in any travel arrangements associated with the Program, if applicable.

**Permission for Medical Care and Release**

I authorize Greenheart Travel and its representatives and host parents to consent to any X-ray examinations, anesthesia, medical, or surgical diagnosis rendered or treatment or hospital care for the person listed below, which is deemed advisable by, and is rendered under the general supervision of any licensed physician or surgeon. This authorization is given to provide authority and power on the part of our aforesaid agents to give consent to any and all such diagnosis, treatment, or hospital care which the aforementioned physician, dentist, or surgeon in the exercise of his/her best judgment, may deem advisable. I further agree to hold Greenheart Travel and its representatives harmless for its actions relating to my emergency treatment.

**I confirm that I have read and agree to abide by the conditions above (either stated or implied). I understand that failure to comply with these rules may result in dismissal from the program at my own expense. There is no reason—pre–existing health condition, emotional or behavioral problems, etc.— why I should not be able to participate in the program. I also understand that falsifying or withholding any information on the application could result in program dismissal.**

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Signature of Applicant Date

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Signature of Father, Mother or Legal Guardian Date