



Tegucigalpa, Honduras; May 2008.

**Dear Parents,**

*We are very happy to know that your daughter/son will be living in Honduras as a participant of the AFS Year/Semester program.*

*As staff members of AFS Honduras, we want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you that we will try our best to help your child throughout her/his experience and make this coming year an enjoyable and interesting one.*

*Probably many things about our culture and our people will be easier for you to understand if you have some background information about us now, before your child actually arrives here. In that case we recommend you to try and get information about Honduras and try to find out from the most reliable source in order to get a broader perspective of our country.*

*The AFS experience means a great challenge for your child. It will give her/ him an opportunity to adapt to a culture and language different from your own, and such achievement will require her/his best efforts. The year here will be a great and unique opportunity for personal growth, and we must all keep in mind that growing up can be difficult at times. If at anytime during this period you feel concerned about any aspect of the experience, please let your own AFS representative or National Office know about it, they will let us know and we will do all we can do to help your daughter/son.*

*In cases of difficulty you should be aware, that there would be a group of AFS volunteers and staff to help your daughter/ son throughout her/ his adjustment problems. However, in these cases our experience have shown that a constant contact with you through phone calls, for example, could make adjustment in some cases a bit harder. We will inform your AFS office whenever we believe it is necessary that you contact your daughter/ son to provide further advises, and will keep you updated of any situation that arises, also we will try to respond promptly to any questions from your National office regarding your child's experience.*

*Please be sure that your child's welfare will be our major concern for this year/Semester.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*The Staff of AFS Honduras*

## VISA INFORMATION FOR HONDURAS

Citizens of AUS, AUT, BFL, BFR, CAN, DEN, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, ISL, ITA, JPN, NED, NOR, NZL, RSA, SUI, SWE, TUR & USA just need a valid passport to enter the country. A 90-day tourist entry permission will be given at their arrival by Immigration officials, on a slip paper (Migratory Registry Entrance/Departure card) which is stapled to the passport.

A Request for a change in status is needed to obtain a student visa. The Immigration office will provide a special permission of permanence under the category of students.

Students on the year program should bring US. \$ 200 and students on the semester program should bring US \$ 120.00. This will cover: fee for the procedure to obtain the special permission, two visa extensions with a duration of thirty days each, a medical certificate, a special stamp, cost of the resident ID and legal fees.

All the procedures must be done by a lawyer and can not be done individually; because of this, AFS Honduras will be collecting the \$ 200.00 and the documents requested below at the arrival orientation.

Students older than 18 at time of arrival will need around \$10.00 extra to obtain a Honduran police clearance once they are in Honduras, this is the only document that can be obtained individually so students will have to obtain this once they are in their host community.

Participants should be aware that if the special permission is not granted in the first five months, each participant might need to pay US \$ 20.00 for each additional monthly visa extension.

### DOCUMENTS TO BRING:

1. Parental Travel Consent for minors (under 21), translated and legalized with an apostille\*. If this form is not translated in the original, then it must have an official translation, which also needs to have an apostille.
2. Students older than 18 at time of arrival must bring a police clearance. The original with an apostille\* and an official translation which needs to have an apostille as well.
3. A clear photocopy or scanned copy of the first pages of the passport with an Apostille and an official legalized translation, which needs to have an apostille as well.
4. 5 recent pictures (3 passport size and 2 ID size) with the student's full name clearly written in capital letters on the back.

***All Apostilles are available at the respective ministry of foreign affairs.***

***Translation of these documents has to be made at the nearest Honduran Consulate***

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\* **Apostille** is also a French word, which means a certification. It is commonly used in English to refer to the legalization of a document for international use under the terms of the 1961 Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents. Documents which have been notarized by a notary public, and certain other documents, and then certified with a conformant apostille are accepted for legal use in all the nations that have signed the Hague Convention.

## PARENTAL TRAVEL CONSENT FOR MINORS (UNDER 21)

**Dear Student and Natural Parents,**

Greetings from Honduras!

We are looking forward to having you as part of our large AFS family here in Honduras this year. We know you will have a wonderful experience with us.

The reason for this letter is to inform you about the letter of consent that is required by all minor age students travelling to Honduras.

In accordance with Honduran immigration regulations all minors (under 21 years of age) travelling to and from and outside of Honduras **must have a letter of consent signed by both parents or legal guardian** with all your other important travel documents; (passport and plane tickets) to be shown when required. Legal regulations state that even if you are travelling with one parent or legal guardian, the letter must be signed by the other parent or legal guardian. As you can see, this is a very important requirement.

This letter needs to be legalized with an apostille.

**We would like to emphasize that this letter of consent it is not a permanent permission to travel inside or outside Honduras independently, while being an AFS student, there are some regulations regarding this issue, which you will find in the Student's Manual. Please read them carefully in order to avoid any misunderstandings.**

Enclosed you will find an example of a Parental Travel Consent letter.

Kind Regards and have a safe trip to Honduras. We are looking forward to meet you!

**AFS Honduras**

**EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF CONSENT**

**A QUIEN CORRESPONDA**  
*TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN*

Padre (*Father*) \_\_\_\_\_

Madre (*Mother*) \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor  
(*Legal Guardian*) \_\_\_\_\_

Con domicilio en  
(*Home Address*) \_\_\_\_\_

País  
(*Country*) \_\_\_\_\_

Padres o tutores de  
(*Legal Guardian of, students name*) \_\_\_\_\_

Número de Pasaporte  
(*Passport number*) \_\_\_\_\_

Damos permiso a nuestra/o hija/o para viajar en cualquier momento dentro o fuera de Honduras como estudiante de intercambio con AFS Programas Interculturales así como para regresar a (País de Origen). Asimismo cuenta con nuestro consentimiento para la solicitud de un permiso especial de permanencia para su estancia en Honduras.

*(We give permission for our son/daughter to travel at any time within or outside of Honduras as an exchange student with AFS Intercultural Programs and to return to (Home Country). He/she applies for a special permission of permanence for his/her stay in Honduras with our consent).*

Firma del Padre  
(*Father's signature*) \_\_\_\_\_

Firma de la Madre  
(*Mother's signature*) \_\_\_\_\_

Firma del Tutor  
(*legal guardian's signature*) \_\_\_\_\_

Lugar (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha (*date*) \_\_\_\_\_