



Success is a personal creation

Dear Participants,

This is the last of the series of letters you have received before your arrival to México. In about 2 more weeks you will be landing in a country that will prove you different to what you imagined or expected. You will be meeting your host family some days after your arrival and then and there, you will realize that your adventure is real and it has begun.

The first morning you wake up in your new room and look around searching to find something familiar, yet everything is different, it is in that moment that you know it is for real. You are in México! With your Mexican family and your Mexican room and eating Mexican food. You hear everybody speaking Spanish and you can't understand what they are saying. The only thing you can be sure of is that your host family is as afraid as you are, because this is new to them as well. You don't know them and they don't know you... don't worry; you are going to have enough time to get to know each other, be patient.

The whole process of living a year abroad sounds fantastic. Yet, you must know that it is a difficult process. I have probably already mentioned this in the other letters, and I'm saying it to you again, because it's true. Are you ready to live differently that how you have live up to now?

Are you ready to adapt to new family rules?

Are you ready to accept that you might not be able to do the things that you do at home?

Are you ready to accept that some of the freedom that you have at home, you are not going to have it with your new family?

Being ready for all of this is not easy and it is a learning process that requires flexibility, patience and hard work adapting.

This letter includes some final information that you must know before your arrival so that you can come as much prepared as possible.

1) Things to bring to México:

- **A talent show to present during the Arrival camp. Get in touch with other participants from your country that are coming to México and get organized with them. Each country will present a “show” that lasts about 5 minutes.**
- **A food recipe for you to cook it some day for your host family.**
- **A national flag from your country.**
- **A presentation about your country and your way of life. It can be a computer presentation or you can bring pictures and things to show.**

2) When you arrive at the airport several volunteers and us staff will be waiting for you. You are to get out through the arrival gates and look for someone with the AFS sign. Don't move away from the arrival gates, first find someone from AFS and then do things like going to the bathroom.

3) Arrival Camp - Important things to consider:

- **All participants will be arriving on Friday the 22nd of August. But the flights are at different times, so you have to be ready to wait at the airport some time until we gather enough people to take a bus to the place where the camp will be. There will be several buses leaving from the airport to the camp at different times.**
- **From the airport to the camp site the bus will make approximately 2 hours. The camp site is just outside the city, but México City is very big and there is lots of traffic; thus, getting out of the city takes a bit of time.**
- **It is important for you to bring some money to buy water or a small lunch at the airport, while you wait to take the bus to the camp. Dinner will be served at the camp at 9:00 pm.**
- **For those of you who arrive very late and won't get a chance to eat dinner, we will have water available and some sandwiches. If you wish to buy something to eat at the airport and take it to the camp its fine too.**
- **The camp site is not a luxury hotel and you will be sharing rooms and bathrooms with other participants of the same sex.**

- **Make sure you bring a small bag with the clothes you will need for the camp (jeans, t-shirts, warm sweater) and your personal hygiene items. The suitcases won't be able to fit in the same rooms you will be sleeping in, thus, they will be kept in another room.**
 - **The climate in México City is between 12° and 25° C, and most of the days it's raining, thus come prepared.**
 - **On Friday, there will be no activities but a welcome dinner. You will have all the afternoon to rest and sleep.**
 - **On Saturday, early we will begin with activities. I'm sure you will have plenty of doubts and questions and we will try to answer them all, but be patient and follow the agenda. Don't try to ask us all your questions at first, let us give you the entire orientation and then if you still have questions, we can talk one-on-one.**
 - **On Sunday, you will be leaving to go to your host community.**
- 4) **Some of you will be traveling by bus to your host community since it will not be too far from México City, or because there are no flights to that specific community.**

Others will be traveling by plane to their host community.

We will tell you how you will be going to your host community once you are here, so all of you must come prepared with:

*** All of you must bring with you \$200 USD that you might need to pay for the second suitcase when you fly to your host community. On a flight inside the country airlines only allow you to take one suitcase that weights 23 kgs. If you are taking a second suitcase it will probably cost you from \$150 to \$200 USD.**

These are the final pre-arrival tips and information. You are soon to begin the AFS Journey, an experience that is bound to change your life. Remember that success is a personal creation:

You are to determine by your actions how successful your experience will be. You are to decide how much effort you are willing to put into this experience. And only you are responsible for deciding to risk your stay in México by not following rules. It is you who decides how this year will turn out. And it is also you who has the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful year and know that when you leave México after you have completed the program, you have done your best at all times, including the difficult times.

¡WELCOME TO THE JOURNEY OF AFS MÉXICO!

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