

## SO, YOU'VE DECIDED TO HOST A VISITOR FROM

...And you're probably wondering just what to expect. You're no doubt aware that after your visitor arrives, there will be a period of adjustment for both the visitor and the host family, as you both get used to a completely new culture. In the following pages, you will find many helpful ideas to help you understand a bit better where your guest is coming from and also to aid you in leaving your guest with a good impression of Cary and Americans. We hope it will serve to ease any difficulties you might run into and to make the experience enjoyable and rewarding for all.

### PRE-ARRIVAL PREPARATIONS

Before your visitor arrives, it might be a good idea to sit down with your family member and prepare a list of "house rules". These are things that you will need to communicate to your visitor over the first days of their stay. Try not to overwhelm your student with a big list and try to avoid rules that may seem arbitrary. Always explain "why". Some things you might want to consider:

**Mealtimes:** What are your regular times and what are your rules for letting the cook know if you're going to be late or not there at all?

**Laundry:** Do you want to throw the visitor's clothes in with the family wash or have them do their own?

**Housework:** Where are they expected to help out - bed making, linen change, clearing dishes, etc.? It's important to encourage visitors to help with some chores as it helps them to feel a part of the family.



**Telephoning:** What are the best times for them to call overseas and for them to receive calls so as not to disturb the whole household? How long can visitors talk on the phone? How late can they receive calls from friends and family in China?

Each visitor will arrive with a calling card to make phone calls. Make sure to remind your visitor to use it to avoid charges to your home phone.

The international country and city codes are as follows: 011 + 86 + 28 + Number.

**Special conditions:** Are there any special considerations the new family member should be aware of: food, religion, health etc.?

# HOPEWELL ACADEMY HOST FAMILY

JULY/AUGUST 2011

## BACKGROUND ON CHENGDU, CHINA

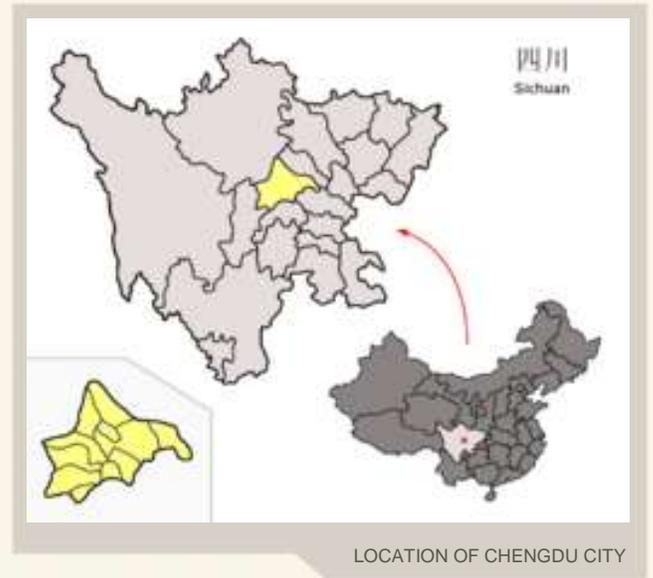
Chengdu, is the capital of Sichuan province, of Southwest China. Chengdu is also one of the most important economic, transportation and communication hubs in Western China.

Chengdu is located on the edge of the fertile plains of the Red Basin in China's Sichuan Province. Due to its agricultural wealth, Chengdu is sometimes called the "Land of Milk and Honey". The Funan river bisects the city.

The greater city area is divided into five districts and 12 counties, altogether home to more than 9.2 million people, which is similar to the population of Chicago. Chengdu has the reputation as a very "laid-back" city that emphasizes culture and relaxation and as a result of this and much green space is ranked one of the most livable mega-cities in China. It is credited with a good nightlife scene and contains many new western style buildings in the large city center.

Summer weather is hot and humid, as the city is surrounded by small mountains to the east and sits in the Red Basin. An hour to the west lie the foothills of the mighty Tibetan Plateau and the fabulously scenic mountains of west Sichuan.

The giant panda is nature's gift to Chengdu and the province of Sichuan. At the Chengdu Research Base, giant pandas live in large natural habitats, which help visitors to understand how these animals live in the wild. It is an excellent educational resource and a highlight of any visit to Chengdu.





## **SUGGESTED HOST FAMILY ACTIVITIES.**

Here are some ideas for entertaining your visitor:

- Grocery shopping
- Shopping at a local mall
- Seeing a film at a movie theater
- Watching television as a group
- Going bowling
- Rock climbing at state park
- Ice skating or roller skating
- Play ultimate frisbee
- Playing baseball
- Playing golf or putt-putt
- Playing tennis
- Going to church (if your family attends)
- Visiting the North Carolina Zoo
- Going to a Durham Bulls game
- Going to a Railhawks game
- Swimming at the pool of Lake Jordan
- Going to West Regional Library
- Doing anything your family normally does!

## **EXPERIENCING OUR CULTURE**

Imagine you were visiting a foreign country, what you want to do? Where would you want to go? Would you want to try an array of foods? If you wanted to get a true picture of the culture and people, would you stick to tourist attractions or go off the beaten track?

Our visitors are interested in experiencing all aspects of American teen and tween life. What seem to be common everyday occurrences are novel and exciting for the exchange students. In order for them to fully immerse themselves in our culture, it is helpful for the students to see real American life and not solely its portrayal in television shows and movies.

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## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

**In the event of an emergency, please use the following contact information**

**Shuyun Mu** – 919.699.5621 (cell), 919.883.5761 (office)

**Cecilia Gabriel** – 919.649.5959 (cell), 919.607.6339 (school)

[www.hopewellacademy.org](http://www.hopewellacademy.org)

101 Preston Executive Drive, Cary, NC 27513  
001.919.607.6339 | [news@hopewellacademy.org](mailto:news@hopewellacademy.org)

Hopewell Academy provides a challenging and supportive environment for students with diverse learning styles. Small classes and personalized attention help our students become confident and responsible learners to achieve academic success in a college preparatory environment.