



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

## **Canada Arrival Orientation FAQ Summer French Language Program**

### **Who will meet me at the airport and where?**

AFS staff, college staff and/or host family will meet you at the airport outside of the baggage claim area.

### **How will I recognize the people who will meet me at the airport?**

They will be wearing AFS shirts/jackets or will have AFS signs. Stay in the airport until staff or host family meet you. Wear your AFS shirt and name tag -- these will be given to you before your international flight -- so that you're easily identifiable by the AFS team.

### **How will I get to the orientation site?**

You will travel to the orientation site by public transportation or your host family will bring you there by car. If you are using public transportation, your host family will accompany you or will show you the route the day before.

### **Where will the orientation take place?**

The orientation takes place where you will have your language classes, the Monday after your arrival. Your host family will carefully take care of you until then.

### **Will there be a tour of the city during the orientation?**

There are no city tours during the orientation, but AFS Canada Staff and/or volunteers will take you out for activities all around the city throughout your stay. However, a short tour of the neighborhood will take place during your first day of class.

### **How long is the orientation?**

Orientation will be half a day long, it will cover the English program curriculum, the safety rules, information on the city and intercultural tips and tricks.

### **In what language(s) will the orientation be conducted?**

English

### **Will there be language instructions at the orientation?**

Depending on your destination and the activities calendar, you may have a class after orientation. Please refer to the activities calendar for further information.

### **What type of activities will happen during orientation?**

The orientation focuses on basic skills and general information about the country. The information covered includes:

- Information on AFS Canada and our volunteer structure.
- Brief general information on host families, schools, and communities.
- Basic cultural aspects of Canadian families.
- Information on money, I.D. cards, public transportation, safety trips, calendar, insurance, etc.



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

**What materials do I need to bring with me to the orientation?**

Please bring printed copies of the Welcome Booklet. All other materials will be provided on-site if necessary. Your host family or local coordinator will provide you with a lunch, snacks and bus/metro pass. You will need running shoes for the afternoon activity.

**Will I have a chance to exchange money between the time of arrival and the end of orientation?**

It is possible to change money at the airport before you leave, but we recommend that you arrive to Canada with at least \$50CAD prior to departure so you have some cash for emergencies or to buy snacks if you are connecting through a Canadian airport to get to your final destination. Almost all ATM machines accept international credit cards. Please make sure you have a four digit PIN code.

**Will I have access to a telephone which can accommodate long distance calls by using a phone card? Will there be Internet access?**

There won't be access to a telephone, but the orientation site **may** have wi-fi. For some destinations, you will have access to computers at the language school. However most of the students will only have access to the internet in their host families.

**How will I travel to my host community and when will I meet my host family?**

Your host family will probably pick you up at the airport. In Montreal the airport is 10 to 30 minutes from the host family homes. If it is not your family who picks you up, do not worry, a AFS or Vanier College volunteer will be there to greet you and bring you to your host family.