



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Arrival Orientation Information Semester and Year Programs 2017

Who will meet us at the airport and where should we wait?

After your plane arrives and you pass through immigration and customs, please collect your luggage and then exit to the arrival hall. You will be met by AFS Paraguay staff and volunteers who will be waiting for you in the arrival hall outside the restricted area. Do not leave this area until you meet with AFS staff and volunteers

How will we recognize the AFS volunteers or staff meeting us at the airport? They will be wearing AFS t-shirts.

How will we get to the orientation site?

By bus arranged by AFS Paraguay.

Where will the orientation take place?

Asuncion.

How long is the orientation?

One and a half days.

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

English.

Will there be language instructions at the orientation?

No

What type of activities will happen during orientation?

This orientation is a one and a half-day introduction to AFS Paraguay. The objectives for this activity are:

- To allow you time to begin assimilating to the new cultural elements (geography, weather, language, safety tips)
- To provide an opportunity to get to know the volunteers and staff of AFS Paraguay - To provide time for volunteers and staff to share information on the program, the country and its people.

The agenda includes sessions such as:

- *Surviving on Arrival to Paraguay*
- *AFS Paraguay Rules*
- *Administrative Affairs* (facilitated by national office staff)
- *Cultural Adaptation*
- *Body Language in Paraguay*

Should participants prepare a cultural activity or bring a costume for the orientation?

There is a talent show and all participants are encouraged to prepare something.

Will participants have access to their luggage during the arrival orientation?

Yes, but we recommend bringing a backpack with a change of clothes in case luggage doesn't arrive on time.

Will participants need to pack a separate bag for orientation? Should they pack a towel?

No, though we recommend that you have a change of clothes in your carry-on luggage in case your large bag is delayed (though this happens rarely). You will not need to pack a towel. Towels will be provided at the orientation site.

Will there be participants from other AFS partners attending the orientation? If so, from which countries? Approximately how many participants will be attending?

There will be participants from ITA, BFL, GER, FRA, NOR, SUI, NED, DEN.

Will participants need money during the orientation?

Not unless you want to buy something personal.

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

Probably not.

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

Yes, the place where we have the arrival orientation has internet access.

How will the participants travel to their host families and when?

Some host families, if they live near enough, will come to Asuncion to take you to your host community.

If your host family is not able to come to Asuncion, you will take a bus to your host community. The local chapter volunteers will send a volunteer chaperone to accompany you on a car or bus ride. Time for the ride varies from 30 minutes to 5 hours. It is unlikely that there will be longer rides.

How soon after orientation does school begin?

School will most likely start the first week upon arrival

Any other useful information?

Arrive without expectations and be ready to have a different weather environment. We don't have snow but we have cold and humid days and Paraguay is not prepared for cold ones.

Post-Arrival Orientation

Within the first month of the program, you will be invited back to Asuncion to participate in another two day orientation.

The activity usually starts on a Friday afternoon, with recreational and/or relaxation time. This is a time to rest from the trip and meet the participants from other countries. Orientation is held by volunteers and chaperoned by a staff member. The Orientation will begin on Saturday morning with intercultural sessions, such as, - *Intercultural Learning* (more information on cultural shock)

- My Family, Your Family? -

Paraguay and its people