

Windermere



NEWSLETTER

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Ayusa Seeks U.S. Families in the Houston Area to Host High School International Exchange Students for the 2015-2016 School Year

Ayusa, a non-profit organization that promotes global learning and leadership through cultural exchange and leadership programs for high school students from around the world, is looking for American families in the Houston area interested in sharing their America with international high school students for the 2015-2016 school year. Applications for interested Houston area host families are currently being accepted.

“Sharing the American experience with an international student is a unique opportunity for the average American to profoundly impact the life of a teenager, and provide them with a positive, transformational experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives,” said Sherry Carpenter, executive director of Ayusa. “Houston area host families are in a great position to show international exchange students an especially authentic slice of American life, which is one reason we are actively looking for Houston area based host families.”

Ayusa foreign exchange students come from more than 60 countries, are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English. Whether from Japan or Brazil, India or Sweden, Ukraine or Mexico, France or Lebanon, foreign exchange students are a window into another culture and a great way to travel the world without leaving your home.

“Host families are the heart and soul of Ayusa’s foreign exchange program,” said Vicki Odom, Community Representative for Ayusa, and the local contact for Houston. “Our families have been hosting Ayusa exchange students for the last five years, and the experience has been transformative for the students, who blossom in the local community through support from the

families and schools.”

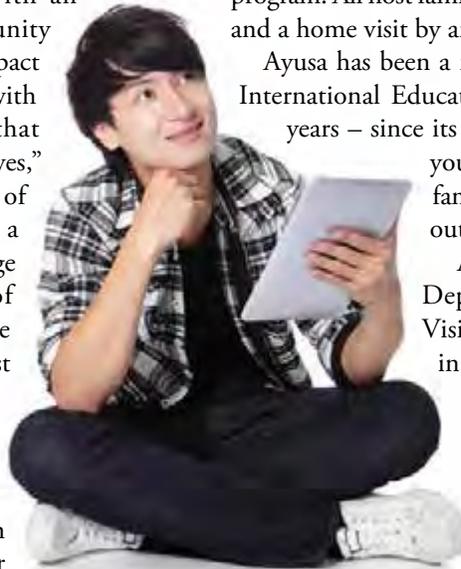
There is no “typical” American host family and Ayusa welcomes all interested families, with or without children, from both urban and rural communities. Host families provide three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared). Each student is supported by a professionally trained community representative from Ayusa who works with the family and student for the entire program. All host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an Ayusa representative.

Ayusa has been a member of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) for more than 25 years – since its foundation. CSIET evaluates U.S.-based youth exchange programs so that students, families and schools can identify inbound and outbound reputable exchange organizations.

Ayusa is a 501(c)(3), and an official U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor. Families interested in learning more about hosting an exchange student can visit <http://www.ayusa.org> or contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881.

ABOUT AYUSA

Ayusa International (<http://www.ayusa.org>) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through cultural exchange and leadership programs for high school students from around the world. In addition, Ayusa administers high profile grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and other organizations. Ayusa is part of the Intrax family of organizations that provide a lifetime of high quality educational, work, and volunteer programs that connect people and cultures, with operations in more than 100 countries worldwide.



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Center Point (Street Lights).....713-207-2222
EDP Water - Mud #29.....832-467-1599
Library281-890-2665
Post Office.....713-937-6827
Waste Management/Trash713-686-666

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The 'Take Care of Texas' Quick Guide to Recycling

Recycling allows individuals to give new life to the products they use. When manufacturers use recycled materials in their products, not only does it conserve natural resources and reduce waste in landfills, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions through energy savings.

Our national recycling rate is only 34.5 percent annually but is responsible for sending 87 million tons of material to a useful second life instead of the landfill. These recycling efforts save Americans the equivalent of the annual energy consumption of nearly 10 million U.S. households per year and avoids greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to removing more than 33 million cars from the road each year.

Please help us increase our annual recycling rate! Visit KeepCyfairBeautiful.org to access the 'Take Care of Texas' free publication 'What Do I Do With It Now?' and learn more about where to recycle more than just paper, cardboard, bottles and cans!

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Kids Section

"Mom!" you yell down the stairs. "Where's my math book? I can't find it and the bus is coming! Please help me ... it's an emergency!"

It is kind of an emergency with the bus coming and all, but what about a medical emergency? That kind of emergency is usually more serious. If you don't have your math book or miss the bus, that would be bad. But a medical emergency means someone needs care from a doctor right away. Let's find out the right thing to do.

QUICK THINKING: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Liz and her little brother Jamie are out for a walk. Jamie decides to race ahead down a very steep hill. He's running pretty fast when he suddenly trips. Over and over he falls, rolling down the hill at high speed until he's sprawled out on the sidewalk at the bottom.

Liz rushes to her brother's side, hoping that he's OK. Then she sees some blood on the pavement. And Jamie isn't moving at all. What should she do? First things first: Liz should look around for a grown-up and call him or her to help right away. If no one is close by, she should make a phone call either on a cell phone or from the closest phone.

**When It's Just
You in an
Emergency**



Calling for help is the most important thing a kid can do in an emergency.

If you're going to be the one making the emergency phone call, here's what to do:

1. Take a deep breath to calm down a little.
2. Call 911.
3. Tell the operator there's an emergency.
4. Say your name and where you are (the exact address if you know it).
5. Explain what happened and how many people are hurt. (The operator will need all the information you can provide, so give as many details as you can.)
6. Follow all of the operator's instructions carefully.
7. Stay on the line until the operator says it's OK to hang up.

(Continued on Page 4)

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(Continued from Page 3)

After calling for help, your first thought might be to rush over to the person who's injured. But stop and look before you do. Make sure the scene is safe. If it's not, wait in a safe spot until a grown-up or an emergency team arrives.

If the scene is safe, and as soon as Liz is sure someone is calling 911 — or she has called it herself — she could return to her brother and wait until help arrives. (She shouldn't move her brother at all because he could have a neck or other bone injury. Moving someone who has that sort of injury can make it much worse.) She can help him feel calm by being calm herself.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

The best way to handle an emergency is to be prepared for one. Knowing what to do ahead of time can help you stay in control so that you can help. Here are some suggestions on how to be ready to help in an emergency:

- When you're outdoors, make sure you're in an area where you can call out for help even if you don't have a phone with you.
- Know how to dial 911 or your local emergency number (in most areas in the United States, it's 911).
- If you have one, carry a cell phone or know how to use your parent's cell phone.
- Learn first aid. Look for basic first-aid classes with your local Red Cross, the YMCA or YWCA, the Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H clubs, your local hospital, and other organizations. Or ask your school nurse to have a first-aid class just for students in your school.

It's scary to think about someone getting hurt. But the truth is that accidents can and do happen. They happen when people are being careless and careful. Sometimes, kids are the ones who get hurt. Sometimes, grown-ups get hurt. Either way, it's good to know what to do if someone needs emergency medical help. Even though you're a kid, you can make a big difference by doing the right thing.

Reviewed by: Kate M. Cronan, MD Date reviewed: October 2010



Be a Hero - the Smart Way

In an emergency, a kid might think about playing the superhero by driving a car or racing into a burning building. Don't do it! You could cause another accident or make the situation worse. If you get hurt, too, who will call 911?

SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to windermerecakes@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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A FEW DAYS IN THE LIFE OF A HOME HANDYMAN

by: Gordon R. Watson

DRIPPING FAUCETS

Vacationing at my mother-in-law's home always means doing some repair work. I like keeping busy, and there are generally some things needing attention. One of the recent issues there was a dripping kitchen faucet. Drips are really a thing of the past for most faucets. Happily, ceramic has replaced rubber as the seal, so most faucet manufacturers have a lifetime warranty of one sort or another. I gave her my standard verbal disclaimer (that her home's piping is old and something might break and require a real plumber). So far, I have never had to resort to calling one (knock on wood). I turned off the main water supply outside because her 1950's home doesn't have shut off valves (called stops in the trade) beneath the kitchen sink. Outside, after digging a hole in a flower planter to find the shut off valve, I gently advised her not to bury the main shut off valve because it wasn't designed to be buried, and it might be difficult to find quickly. In the kitchen again, fully expecting the old style rubber washers, I removed the kitchen faucet handle, protected the shiny chrome with masking tape, applied a wrench, and removed the faucet stem. To my surprise, the sink faucet did have new-style ceramic style seals. The problem, it turned out, was that debris, probably from her home's aging and rusting (50+ year old) galvanized pipes, had stuck in the ceramic cartridge, causing the seal to be incomplete. Fortunately, once I cleaned the debris out, the drip went away. I love it when I don't have to buy parts for a repair. The fact that the old piping is obviously corroding and slowly failing is another story for another time. Replacing that piping almost certainly will require a real plumber. Sometime I might mention to her that it might be a good idea to replace the old pipe on her schedule rather than the pipe's schedule.

CORROSION

Her home also has a clothesline (not all that common these days) which had all but fallen over. The old clothesline was the old style with two "crosses" each cross with a two-inch galvanized pipe stuck in concrete (with five ropes for holding the clothes). Over time, these pipes rusted away. The funny thing is that the pipes really only rusted in one place: about two inches above the ground and two inches below the ground. The remaining pipe was in near-perfect condition. Even the pipes buried twenty-four inches in the ground were near-perfect! My point in mentioning this is that this corrosion is caused by moisture and oxygen. While we will likely never have a clothesline, the principle applies to all materials such as iron and wood placed in the ground and prone to rust or wood rot. While there is little we can do about oxygen, to the degree



feasible, we should try to keep water away from anything placed in the ground. Better yet, when feasible, avoid putting anything which can rust or rot directly in the ground.

STUD FINDERS

Over the years, I have owned at least three electronic stud finders. These are the devices that are supposed to locate the wooden or metal studs behind the sheet rock. My history with them hasn't been trouble-free. My last one worked fairly well for a few years, but it recently proudly advised me that the closet wall I wanted to attach a shelf to, had no studs. I now have three "broken" stud finders in my tool box. I promise to properly dispose of them soon. Fortunately, while doing some work at my son and daughter-in-law's home, I found (in my son's tool chest) a non-electric, entirely rare earth magnet-type "stud finder" that works so well that I don't think I will ever go back to the electronic type. It is made by C.H. Hanson. Of course, it only indirectly finds the stud. It finds the nails or screws holding the sheet rock to the stud. At about \$10, it is a bargain. I just bought one for myself, and believe it may be the last I ever have to buy (unless I lose it, of course). Hint: Once a stud is found, you can apply painter's tape (masking) tape (not too tight or you may strip away the paint) to the stud location, or you can place another magnet on the nail location as a marker.



Ways to Prevent Identity Theft

Don't carry social security cards, Pin #, blank checks, Medicare card or keys in your wallet. Make photocopies of EVERY card in your wallet (both front & back)

IF YOUR WALLET IS MISSING FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

Call credit card companies and request an account number change. Do not cancel your card. If your account is closed it will inconvenience you and hurt your credit score.

File a Report with the Police.

Get a copy of the report and send copies to your bank and credit card companies.

Alert Your Bank

Change Pin #'s , cancel ATM cards and get a new checking account number if your checkbook is missing.

Contact Your DMV

Replace your driver's license and ask that a stolen/lost warning be placed in your file.

Put a Fraud Alert or Security Freeze

On your file at the three major credit bureaus. experian .com; equifax.com; and transunion.com . Alerts are free, but freezes are more secure and free to people over 65.

Private Medical Insurers

Should be asked for new cards with new account numbers to prevent fraud. Call Medicare and your auto insurer in case someone tries to make an accident claim from your policy.

Check Credit Reports

After your wallet is lost 2 weeks, go to creditreport.com to get a free report. That is usually time enough for thieves to open credit in your name. Recheck credit report in 2-3 months.



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