



Frequently Asked Questions

What does a typical day look like for a S.E.E.D. Student?

(*ALL Students are paired with a fluent English speaker for ALL activities throughout the day!)

Time	Activity
7:00	Breakfast with Host Family
8:00-9:00	"Check In" on Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Review materials with American Language Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Teambuilding Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks
9:00-9:45	Topic of the Day (Activities Vary)
9:45-9:55	Snack Break
9:55-10:15	Cultural Lesson
10:20-11:00	Language "Workouts"
11:00-11:30	Conversational English
11:30-12:00	Lunch
12:00-12:45	Rest, Read, Sports/Games
12:45-1:30	Reading Discussion Groups
1:30-5:00	Teambuilding/Sightseeing Excursions
5:00-10:00	Dinner and Activities with Host Family

What is included in program price?

- Residential accommodation with an American host family (including meals, linens, bedding)
- Daily meals (3 per day)
- 80+ hours per week of English practice and instruction (including classroom, teambuilding, host family activities and projects, and sightseeing)
- All ESL books and materials
- 3-4 off-site excursions per week
- 5-10 hours per week of teambuilding and character development activities
- Community service project
- All transportation costs (**not** including airfare to/from Albuquerque)
- Accident and medical insurance
- Program certificate upon completion of the camp

Students should bring spending money for additional food and souvenirs. We highly recommend that students should not carry more than \$100 of cash; if your child needs to withdraw money the S.E.E.D. staff or host family can take them to an ATM machine.



Is there a refund policy?

Refunds will be provided with a 10% processing fee *before June 20th*.

***Can my child arrive early or depart late?**

All participants **MUST** arrive on the set arrival (**July 19**) and departure dates (**August 12**) set forth for the program. Staff and Host Families will **not** be responsible for any student who arrives early or departs late. Also, *if a student is also planning to be a student at Menaul School and they are coming on an F-1 visa, they are not permitted to arrive in the U.S.A. before July 19. If they do so, their I-20 may be revoked and they will not be allowed to attend Menaul School.*

Does my child need a visa to enter the U.S.?

Typically, international students are granted a B-2 tourist visa when participating in summer programs in the United States. If a student has already been accepted and enrolled in Menaul or another U.S. school, they will come on an F-1 student visa. Please contact our admissions office regarding your particular situation and we will be happy to advise you further.

What is the required English level for participation?

Your child should possess at least low-upper intermediate English skills (about 2 years of prior English study) in order to benefit from the program. We will consider beginners, but we have found that students with a lower level can experience a higher level of frustration and stress and may not experience the same level of accomplishment in the program.

Will my son or daughter be able to practice their English and interact with American students?

Yes! One of the unique features of our program is that every student will have a native English speaking partner. We recruit American teenagers to participate with our international students in all of the camp activities- classroom lessons, teambuilding activities, meals, and excursions.

Do I need to purchase medical insurance for my child?

No, accident and medical insurance has already been included in the cost of the program.

Who will receive my child when he/she arrives at the airport?

A S.E.E.D. staff member will welcome each student at the Albuquerque International Airport upon arrival.



How will I know that my child has arrived safely to camp?

Every student will have access to the internet and will be directed to contact you within 24 hours of arrival.

Can I or a guardian drop-off and pick-up my child?

Yes! Please let us know in advance if you or a guardian who lives in the area would like to provide a personal escort of your child to the Menaul School campus.

Can my child have visitors?

Yes, but this must be arranged prior to the start of the program. S.E.E.D. does not allow students to skip ESL classes, teambuilding activities or excursions as these are all critical to the learning and development process. Visits will be allowed during meal times, evenings and weekends as long as they don't interfere with a planned activity.

Can S.E.E.D. participants bring electronics?

To reinforce English immersion and socialization, students will not be permitted to carry electronics such as tablet devices, smartphones, or laptops during daytime activities unless explicitly directed to do so. We believe that these devices are more often distractions from, rather than supplements to learning. Wifi will be provided for students to communicate with parents and friends in the evenings and weekends. S.E.E.D. staff will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items during the program.

What will the weather be like in Albuquerque?

One of the reasons why Albuquerque is among the most popular places to live in the United States is because of the beautiful weather! Albuquerque residents enjoy about 310 days of sunshine a year with a mild, dry climate. In July and August, the temperatures will range from **17°-33° C/62°-95° F** each day. The mornings and evenings are very cool and the afternoons are warm and sunny.



What clothes should my child pack?

Students are welcome to pack shorts, short-sleeved shirts, and sneakers (running/tennis shoes). Because of the cool mornings and evenings, students are encouraged to pack long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, “hoodies,” or jackets to bring along. *As a sign of respect for their special portfolio presentation, students should bring one nice formal outfit (khaki or dark pants, dress shirts and tie, dress shoes, nice skirt or dress).

Can teachers come along as chaperones?

The SEED program does not prohibit accompanying teachers from the countries of our students. We understand that their participation can benefit the learning environment and that the language learning principles of SEED can be further implemented upon return to the home country. However, all accompanying teachers must understand the following:

1. **English Immersion:** One of the trademarks and goals of the SEED program is to provide students with an authentic English immersion experience. Accompanying teachers are expected to be held to the same standards as all SEED staff in that they should be speaking only English during any and all activities. Exceptions to this rule may be given in the case where translation is needed for Beginning ESL students or in an emergency situation. In addition, we expect the accompanying teacher to assist other SEED staff in holding students accountable to keep this standard. If the teacher is not strict with this, the students will not take it seriously.
2. **Expenses:** If accompanying a group of 5 or more students, we will gladly cover the following expenses for the accompanying teacher:
 - a. **Lodging-** Teachers will be provided a room in one of our campus living facilities.
 - b. **Excursions-** Expenses for most excursions will be included.
 - c. **Meals-** We will provide lunch and sometimes dinner. Breakfast and other dinners are at their own expense as there will not be cafeteria staff on campus during those times.
3. ***Active Participation:** Accompanying teachers are expected to participate in all SEED activities, just like the rest of the staff. *Teachers should not leave the group for personal sightseeing excursions or other business, unless this is first cleared with the SEED director.* Teachers will have opportunities for personal activities in the evenings and on weekends. During activities, teachers should not criticize students in front of the group, unless the student is committing a major offense.
4. **Agreement with the Handbook:** As with other SEED staff, the accompanying teacher should sign and be in agreement with all of the following rules and principles explained in this handbook.



Host Family Questions

How are Host Families selected?

Host families are selected through personal contacts and references from the Menaul **School** community. Each host family must meet the following criteria:

- Provides a criminal/background check
- Produces 2 Letters of recommendation
- Enjoys working with teenagers
- Demonstrates openness and eagerness to learn about other cultures
- Possesses strong moral/ethical character
- Has adequate resources to host (space, time, health)

What are the Host Family Responsibilities?

The responsibilities of the host family are little different than the responsibilities of any supportive family, including but not limited to the following:

- The host family will provide a room not to be shared with more than one other child of the same gender and a similar age, a bed, a desk suitable for studying, internet access and three meals per day.
- Support and participate with the student with his or her special projects.
- Include the student in any activities undertaken by the family as a whole, including outings, meals, shopping trips, etc.
- Provide transportation to and from the school
- Ensure that the student maintains a healthy sleep schedule (SEED program requires lights out at **10:00pm** or earlier if preferred). This will include the collection of cell phones and other electronics that may keep the student from sleeping.



- Most importantly, enforce an English-language environment in the home in every aspect (reading, music, internet, television/movies, speaking) during set times.

What are the S.E.E.D. participant responsibilities?

The student will have a number of responsibilities including but not limited to the following:

- Undertake to follow all house rules set down by the host family.
- Commit to maintaining an English-language environment during the times set forth for English.
- Make full faith efforts to join in any activities undertaken by the host family and to understand their culture and way of life.
- Communicate honestly with the host family and understand that the host family and S.E.E.D. staff have their best interests in mind.
- Make full faith efforts to succeed in every project and program assignment and ask for assistance from both the host family and their teachers when they need it to achieve that goal.
- Commit to one hour of reading daily (seven hours per week) without distraction.

What should the S.E.E.D. student pay for when with their Host Family?

Host Families have agreed to pay for the following expenses:

- All meals- whether at our home or at a restaurant
- All utilities (water, electricity, internet, etc.)
- Transportation
- Special activities that are done as a family (ex. going to the movies or Putt Putt together)

S.E.E.D. Students are expected to pay for:

- Medical Care at a hospital
- Personal snacks
- Toiletries
- Beauty products



- Clothes
- Personal items and gifts (shopping)