

COUNTRY INFORMATION

The USA is a giant country stretching 4500 kilometres from New York on the Atlantic Coast to Los Angeles on the Pacific Coast. 50 individual states are joined to form the United States of America. The USA borders Canada in the north and Mexico to the south. With its great variety of geography, climate, culture and peoples, the USA provides each student with an exciting opportunity to have a unique exchange experience. Vast prairies, corn fields, sunny beaches, mountains, rivers and metropolitan cities make up this large country. Over the centuries, a multicultural society has developed and the golden rule is to give everyone the same chance to succeed. In the USA, you can live your dreams and be what you want to be.

Situated: North American continent Area: 9,372,614 square kilometres Inhabitants: 327,200,000 (2018) Capital: Washington, D.C. Official language: English (Spanish minorities) National holiday: 4th July

COUNTRY MAP

STS CLASSIC LOCATIONS





Age criteria:
15-18.5 years old
Starting months: July/August/
September and January

Language requirements: Good English Skills

Visa: Mandatory - Extra fees apply

Area choice: Extra fees apply Preparation course: STS Welcome Camp in New York, extra fee apply

School year: August/

September - May/June School day: 8:00 - 16:00

Subjects: Mandatory and optional subjects

Optional trips: Options to join trips in the US during the year

THE SCHOOL

In the USA, the school year is divided into fall and spring semesters. The school year starts between early August and early September, depending on the state. Schools often have six or eight different subjects each day, of which two are often obligatory to exchange students: English and American History or American Government. There is usually a variety of other subjects to choose from to fill in the rest of the classes.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Full Zapp application
- Good health
- Good grades (minimum C average)
- Good knowledge of English
- Skype interview before acceptance

THE CULTURE

Americans tend to be outgoing and positive. Students will usually find their American host family and friends generous and hospitable. Hardworking as they are, Americans also enjoy an active social life. Sports of all kinds are very popular. Many people belong to different sports clubs and others are members of a church or a community group. Neighbours and friends are often invited to dinner and barbecues in the backyard.

HOST FAMILY

Host families are volunteers who love learning about other cultures and want to share their culture with their student. American host parents treat their student as their own. Host families come in all different shapes and sizes, but each one goes through a thorough application process that includes, among other things, a home visit and background checks.

SPORTS

There are many after school activities for students to choose from. Sport is an important part of the American school culture and most schools have teams in many different sports. Popular sports are Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball and American Football. Sports practices tend to take place everyday after school, with one or two games a week.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

If students are not interested in sports, they can join one of the other clubs the school has to offer. They vary by school, but may include Drama Club, Math Team, Robotics, Choir, Spanish Club, and the School Newspaper. All exchange students to the USA are invited to participate in several excursions during the year.