

## Social Media Guidelines

Please refer to the “Electronic Communication and Participant Web-Use” Section of the Welcome to the USA Handbook. Specifically the attachments below (pg 25).

**Cultural Sensitivity:** The thoughtful opinions that participants convey in their communications with others can contribute substantially to developing a better understanding of other countries. However, given the broad access to participant-posted material on the internet, participants should remain culturally sensitive with respect to the material they post to any website. Participants should be reminded that people in their host countries and members of the U.S. public may make assumptions about AFS-USA or the participant's community based on the material a participant posts to a website. Although we encourage participants to express themselves freely, participant-posted material on the internet should make efforts to not reflect poorly on AFS-USA, the host family, or the host or home country.

Please note that all participants' personal safety and well-being is AFS's number one priority. Please be aware that certain social media posts may have unintended consequences for the participant, host family, local volunteers, school and/or other AFS students. Please be mindful of how certain posts may be received by those around you and how it may reflect on you, your host family and local community. If you have any questions regarding appropriateness of what you may want to post, please do not hesitate to discuss this with your host family and/or local AFS volunteer team. Please also note that the concept of appropriateness may vary from team to team and person to person so this is an important clarifying conversation to have with your local team.