

AFS Orientation Requirements

Please refer to the “Frequently Asked Questions” Section of the Welcome to the USA Handbook. Specifically the attachments below (pg 13).

Am I required to attend all orientations?

Yes! Attendance at all orientation activities is mandatory. Failure to attend an orientation event may hinder your adjustment process and jeopardize your program status.

Every AFS participant will experience a series of emotional ups and downs during their stay abroad. This is a normal and important part of the intercultural exchange experience. The AFS orientations are designed to help you through this adjustment process. They are also a great way to meet other exchange students.

Schedule of Orientations:

(This may vary depending on region.)

- 1. Arrival Orientation:** upon arrival in the United States
- 2. Post-Arrival Orientation:** 3 to 6 weeks after arrival
- 3. Mid-Year Orientation:** late January to early March (not all areas have a Mid-Year Orientation)
- 4. Pre-Return Orientation:** 3 to 8 weeks prior to your return
- 5. End-of-Stay Event:** Immediately prior to departure