



### **Three to Four Weeks Before You Leave:**

- Go through your possessions. Play "keep, throw away, or give to charity"
- Box up and mail those items you will no longer need while you are here (winter clothes, souvenirs, mementos). You can only check one bag (less than 50 lbs) when you travel home, so make arrangements in advance if you have a lot of baggage. Consider buying and checking a 2<sup>nd</sup> suitcase, as that will be less expensive than mailing 50 pounds of your belongings home.
- Do a "practice run" of packing your suitcase and carry-on. Make sure everything fits in the proper sized suitcases. You are usually allowed only one checked bag without any extra fees. This bag cannot weigh more than 50 Lbs. Additional bags and additional weight will require a payment at the ticket counter. Weigh your packed luggage and carry on to see if there are more things you will need to send home by mail.
- Write and mail thank you notes to your counselor, principal, favorite teachers, YFU Area Representative, and anyone else who has played an important role in your life while you were here.
- Email yourself a list of everyone's addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of host family members, friends and others who you might want to contact after you leave home. Make sure these same people have your address, phone number and email.
- Write down special dates like birthdays and anniversaries of your host family members and friends. Get recipes of your favorite foods, take pictures of your host family, friends, home, school and neighborhood.
- Think about the important people that you want to make sure you can have a thoughtful goodbye. Talk with them about a special activity that you can do together- set a date for this.

### **Two Weeks Before You Leave:**

- Close your bank accounts. Be sure to leave money with your host family to pay for phone bills or other expenses they may have after you leave.
- Write a thank you letter to your host family.
- Visit a local place or two that you really enjoy.
- Call friends to say good-bye (you should spend your last day or two with your host family).
- Start packing
- Think about leaving a nice gift or memento for your host family members.

### **Two to Three Days Before You Leave:**

- Finish packing.
- WEIGH YOUR BAGS!!!!
- If they are too heavy, you need to mail some more stuff or plan to pay for an extra bag.
- Call the airline and ask about the airline regulations about what you can and cannot take. NO fruits, meats or plants are allowed. Make sure the items you wish to take in your carry-on bag conform to your airline regulations. You will risk losing anything that is not allowed on the plane.
- Make sure your passport, YFU travel emergency numbers and e-ticket are in your carry-on luggage.
- Emergency travel numbers: Students can reach YFU toll-free 24 hours a day from any payphone anywhere in the U.S at 1-800-705-9510 and in Frankfurt, Germany at 0800-759-5465. From outside the U.S and Germany, YFU can be reached at 1-202-774-5690 (not toll-free). If you get the recording when you are in the airport, press 1.
- Call the airlines to confirm your travel plans. Check in on-line up to 24 hours in advance.
- Make sure you have written a nice letter to your host family.
- Spend the last night at home with your host family and say your goodbyes
- REMEMBER TO SAY THANK YOU!

### **Departure Day:**

- Check on-line for any updates or changes to your flight information.
- Make sure you get to the airport **at least** 2 hours before your flight departure time.
- Make sure you have your Passport, other paperwork, and your e-ticket
- Hugs and kisses good-bye at the airport (take Kleenex)
- Remember, this is not an ending. It is another new stage of your YFU experience.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened!