SYA Interviewer Process and Guidelines

Thank you so much for helping to promote SYA on your campus!! Your time and support is critical to the success of SYA. Below you will find important information and guidelines to help you through the interview process.

**Step 1:** SYA will notify you when a student from your school submits an online application.

**Step 2:** At the same time, the student will receive an email from SYA with instructions to contact you to arrange a time to interview.

**Step 3:** Once you and the student have connected, the applicant will email you a link to our online interview report form. You will need to create a user account the first time you are directed to this form. Use these login credentials for any subsequent applicant you may interview. If you prefer not to use the online form, please send your written report as an attachment to peaton@syा.org.

**Application deadline** for the 2019-2020 Admissions Season:

- SYA Application       Wednesday, February 12, 2020
- Financial Aid Application  Wednesday, February 12, 2020

**Conducting the Interview**

Your impressions of the applicant’s potential to be a successful SYA student are important. As an SYA coordinator you understand what is required of a student to adapt and thrive in a new culture. During the student interview, please address the following areas:

- Motivation for attending SYA
- Language interest
- Extra-curricular involvement
- Interpersonal skills
- Family and home life
**Some suggested questions:** (Do not feel compelled to go through the entire list of suggested questions; often information about sports, grades, etc. appear elsewhere in a student’s application. What we really want to know is: do you support this candidate and why or why not?)

“Why do you want to study abroad with SYA?”

“What are some of your favorite activities or interests?”

“Tell me a bit about your family and home life?”

“What person or event has influenced your life in a significant way?”

“Describe a difficult or especially challenging situation and how you coped.”

“How would you describe yourself? How would your friends describe you?”

“Are you open to new foods? What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?”

“Tell me about any work or volunteer experiences.”

“What do you like most about your current school? Least?”

“What are your post secondary school plans? College? If so, what would you like to study?”

During the interview the applicant may ask you questions about SYA (extra-curricular activities, funding, host family selections, etc.) for which you do not have the answer. Please direct the student to follow up with the admissions office at SYA.

Thank you, Gracias, Merci, Xie Xie, Grazie for taking the time to perform this very important part of our application process. If at any time you have questions or need assistance, please call Pam Eaton in the Admissions office at 978-722-6182 or email her at peaton@syad.org.