



CHENGDU, CHINA SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM FAQ

What is this camp opportunity about?	Many international students come to the US for summer camp programs - basically, this program is bringing the American Summer Camp experience to China. In collaboration with AIEP, Western Tour World School is inviting American students to attend their camp at no cost. This allows foreign students to practice their English and enjoy cultural exchange.
Who is attending this camp?	Eight to ten American students selected from private schools in CT will be attending, and there will be approx. 60-100 Chinese students in attendance
Where in Chengdu?	Chengdu is located in the southwest part of China and is a sub-provincial city which serves as the capital of China's Sichuan province. At one time, it was the silk brocade capital, but now is widely recognized as "Panda Central" with Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding located in Chengdu. Yes, students will have an opportunity to visit the panda bears on one of the camp outings.
Who will chaperone the students?	If a school sends Middle School students, they may send a teacher/chaperone as well. Two female high school teachers have been selected thus far to oversee the students and participate in teaching classes. Dr. Susan Cavar, Chair of the Science Department of Lauralton Hall will be teach STEM and other classes. Wendy Neil, history teacher at Immaculate High School, has spent year abroad teaching English at a Switzerland school and well acquainted with traveling abroad. These teachers came highly recommended by their schools.
What is the responsibilities of students	Students are to participate in the camp activities and help international students practice English. As representatives of their school, they will be expected to act in a professional manner at all times.
Must my student have a passport?	Yes, a valid passport with an expiration of 6 months past the date of travel is required. If a student is selected, but does not have a passport, they would need to get an expedited passport down in Stamford, CT, and pay the applicable fees.
What are the costs?	Flight, transportation, camp fees, homestay, food, entertainment and travel within China will be paid by Western Tour World School and AIEP. The student will be responsible for the expenses to obtain a passport and a travel visa (with AIEP guidance), as well as a travel insurance policy (approx.. \$20 or less).
Who are the families that my student will have a homestay with?	The purpose of the program is to enjoy cultural exchange, so the students will be staying with one of the Chinese student's family as a homestay, similar to what our international students enjoy when they come to school in the U.S. These families are provided by the Western Tour World School. Chaperones will be at a nearby local hotel.
How do I apply for a Travel Visa to China?	AIEP will provide applications and guidelines on how to apply for a travel visa and will obtain the letter of invitation from the Chinese hosts. Students will need to provide a color copy of their passport, as well as other legal documents such as birth certificate. An AIEP representative will travel to NY city to apply for the travel visas for the chaperones and students.
My student does not speak Mandarin; is that OK?	The purpose of the camp is bringing the American camp experience to China and all classes are taught in English.

	<p>Additionally, students are eager to practice their English with the visitors. As well, AIEP staff members in China speak both Mandarin and English, from fluent to conversational.</p>
<p>What if my child should get sick while traveling?</p>	<p>As with traveling to any other country, most U.S. medical plans cover "out of network" medical services and are reimbursed at a certain percentage – please check with your individual medical provider. Students will be with local school administrators and can be brought to the doctor or hospital, should an incident arise. If a student has a serious issue, the required travel insurance provided through Patriot (or a carrier of your choice) will cover evacuation and/or emergency surgery up to a maximum amount depending on plan selected. Parent medical consent forms will be signed at an upcoming training meeting.</p>
<p>Should we get travel insurance?</p>	<p>Yes, a very minimal cost travel insurance policy is required and AIEP will provide the link and contact information for Patriot Travel to obtain such. Recent quotes are under \$20 for the two week period.</p>
<p>How will the students get to the Airport?</p>	<p>Students and chaperones will meet at the AIEP office/dormitory in Derby, CT, and AIEP will provide transportation to and from the airport at no charge.</p>
<p>Safety – Ratio</p>	<p>There are currently 1 chaperone for every 4-5 students. This opportunity is an invitation from a Chinese school, so students will be with local school/camp administrators throughout the trip, and at night, each student will be with homestay family with one of the Chinese campers.</p>
<p>How much money should travelers bring?</p>	<p>Students may want to bring spending money for snacks or incidentals and will have an opportunity to visit a marketplace in Chengdu. Depending on shopping goals, \$100 is a suggested starting point. AIEP will cover the cost of all accommodations, meals, and transportation on your trip.</p>
<p>What should my student pack?</p>	<p>Weather will be hot and humid in the south of China in July. Along with travel essentials, students should pack light summer wear, and a light raincoat and umbrella. Comfortable shoes/sneakers are a must! A list of suggested items to pack will be provided at the info session.</p>
<p>How much luggage is allowed on the plane?</p>	<p>Students are allowed one piece of checked luggage as well a backpack for the plane. The flight is approx. 16 hours, so students should wear light layers for the plane to either remove or add clothing for comfort.</p>
<p>Will there be an info session to get more details on the trip?</p>	<p>Yes, there is a mandatory info session for parents and students to be held on Tuesday, June 4th at the AIEP offices in Watertown, CT. More info to come.</p>
<p>What type of food will my student be served?</p>	<p>Students will be served both Chinese and American foods. Students may pack additional snacks such as granola bars, peanut butter crackers, packages of nuts, etc. No liquids may be packed.</p>
<p>How do people usually communicate with family and friends back home in the U.S.?</p>	<p>Your cell phone won't work in China unless you purchase an international plan from your carrier. Verizon and AT&T offer an international plan that you can temporarily add to your existing plan and it costs around \$10 per day. It allows you to use your cell phone for phone calls and text messaging while you are in China. If you think you might be interested in this, please call your cell phone company prior to the trip to inquire about this. Skype is the best means of communication aside from email. The homestay will have Wi-Fi so that you can check your personal email. If you need to check your work email you should ask the IT department at your school if they have a VPN (Virtual Private Network) for the school so that you can use it to login. A VPN enables a private network (your school) to be securely extended across a public network so that you can safely access your school's mainframe. In addition, an American VPN will also allow you to view websites that would typically not be accessible in China due to firewall restrictions, such as Google, G-Mail, Facebook etc.</p>
<p>Will I be able to login to Facebook, Twitter or use Google while I am in</p>	<p>Unfortunately, no, those sites are blocked in China due to the strict regulatory policies on internet use, unless you have a VPN (as</p>

China?

discussed above). If you need to obtain any information while on the trip, AIEP staff members will provide assistance.

Will my student require vaccinations?

As a traveler on a tourist Visa, there are no required vaccinations to visit China, and most recommended vaccinations have already been administered to Americans. However, check with your medical provider or CDC should you have any concerns. For your convenience, here is a link to the CDC:
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china>

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