



United States Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Summer Work Travel Participant:

Congratulations on your participation in the Summer Work Travel Program this year. On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I want you to know that your decision to come to the United States is important to us. We want your stay in our country to be a great experience for you.

Being prepared before coming to the United States will help you have a better work and travel experience. Before you leave, we suggest that you:

- Contact your employer to confirm job offer details.
- Notify your employer and your U.S. sponsor of the exact time you will arrive in the United States.
- Ensure that you have thought about how you will travel from the airport to your destination.
- Make certain that you have enough money to cover your expenses. Your U.S. sponsor should provide you with an estimate of the needed amount.
- Study the pre-arrival material provided by your U.S. sponsor. Contact your U.S. sponsor if you have additional questions.
- Research the internet to learn about the area in which you will live and work in the United States. Learn as much as you can about that area's safe and affordable housing, public transportation, medical facilities, banks, etc.

During your time in the United States, we hope you will see and learn about many new things, meet many Americans and make new friendships. You are one of thousands of young people from many different countries who will experience American culture and work in the United States on the Summer Work Travel program this year. As you meet new people, they will learn about your country and culture. Your decision to come to the United States on this program will help create new relationships between our countries.

Your U.S. sponsor, identified on your Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Program (J-1) Status, is your first point of contact throughout your stay in the United States. If you have any questions about your exchange program or need assistance of any kind while in the United States, please do not hesitate to contact your U.S. sponsor. Your U.S. sponsor gave you an emergency telephone contact number in your program orientation materials. This telephone number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In the event that you have concerns or issues that have not been resolved through your U.S. sponsor, the Department of State can also be contacted through our help-line (1-866-283-9090) which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or by e-mail at jvisas@state.gov. We are pleased that you made the decision to participate in the Summer Work Travel program and hope that you enjoy your stay in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin J. Lerner".

Robin J. Lerner
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Private Sector Exchange