

# The Athenian School Exchange Program Participation Agreement 2018-19

Name of Student (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

You have applied to participate in the Athenian School’s Exchange Program and have been provisionally placed to go on exchange to a specific school and country described below (the ‘Activity’). Activities associated with travel and living abroad involve risks and it is important for you to fully evaluate the risks associated with going on exchange and to provide The Athenian School with certain required information before you go on exchange. The student and a parent/guardian must read carefully and sign this Participation Agreement before the exchange placement can be finalized and before the student can go.

**PLEASE READ THIS AGREEMENT CAREFULLY - IT IS A LEGAL CONTRACT AND AFFECTS ANY RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE IF YOU ARE INJURED OR OTHERWISE SUFFER DAMAGES WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY.**

I confirm by my signature below that I understand and agree to the following:

**1. Assumption of Risks of Travel and Program Participation:** I understand that participation in Athenian’s exchange program is entirely voluntary and that the Athenian School makes no representation about the safety or security of the location of the exchange or the modes of travel in connection with the Activity.

I understand that risks are inherent in traveling to and living in unfamiliar settings in foreign countries. I understand that the political, environmental and cultural situations in foreign countries differ from those in my own country and the Athenian School environment. I understand there are health risks, as well as risks associated with aircraft, motor vehicles, alternative modes of transportation, and potentially poor driving conditions. I also understand that by going on exchange in a foreign country subjects me to the laws of that country, which may be significantly different from the laws of the United States. I have weighed the dangers inherent in international travel and living abroad, the risks presented to my own health and well-being, and my desire for personal growth and experience. I acknowledge there may be additional factors of which I am unaware or which have not been brought to my attention. These risks could result in property damage and/or bodily injury, up to and including imprisonment, kidnapping and even death. I agree to accept and assume, knowingly and voluntarily, all risks associated with the Activity whether present or future, known or unknown, arising from or as a result of my voluntary participation in the Activity. I have discussed the risks associated with my participation in the Activity with a parent/guardian as reflected by the signature of such parent/guardian below. I hereby elect to participate in the Activity.

### Some Possible Risks

Road traffic accident	Probably the most dangerous activity undertaken while living abroad is traveling in cars or other vehicles. Students should always wear a seat belt. Students should never be driven by a driver without a license or a drunk driver. Students should become familiar with pedestrian rules in their host country. Drivers in many countries do not defer to pedestrians in cross-walks. Student pedestrians need to take special care when walking in countries where the traffic drives on the left side of the road as cars will be coming from unexpected locations.
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High-risk activity	Student’s parents should communicate in advance with host parents about possible high-risk activities (such as swimming, cycling, sailing, para-sailing, parties).
Illness or Disease	While living in a foreign country, students may be exposed to different diseases or become ill. Before departing for exchange, students going on exchange should visit their doctor or a travel clinic to get any necessary immunizations or medications needed for their country (e.g. anti-malarial prophylactic). The Centers for Disease Control website has information on health issues in different countries and recommended immunizations and medications. While in-country, students should take care to ensure their ongoing health (e.g. washing hands before each meal).
Being a victim of crime	Newly-arrived travelers are more vulnerable as targets of crime because they: 1) are unfamiliar with their surroundings, 2) might not speak the local language well, 3) are recognizable as foreigners, 4) have not yet learned the social norms or unwritten rules of conduct, 5) are eager to get to know new people and the local culture, and 6) are naive to the intentions of people around them. Students should realize that their new friends are a good source of information if they warn of dangers, but as teenagers themselves, they might not be fully accurate when it comes to assessing risks.
Child or sexual abuse	Families depend on the host school to vet and orient host family (if student is living with a family). Student’s parents should communicate with and get to know host family over phone before start of exchange. Student should establish a buddy system with someone they trust, so you can let them know if something is making your feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
Failure to obtain necessary travel visa and documents	Student and family need to research whether a visa is needed and to get necessary visa or documentation. Note that requirements are often different for students from countries other than the United States. India requires a visa for all visitors. South Africa requires significant documentation for all unaccompanied minors entering country.
Psychological stress adapting to new environment	Student needs to undertake preparatory activities (read exchange handbook, attend exchange training, learn about host country). While on exchange, student under stress should seek help from adults at host school, from his or her own parents, or from Athenian Round Square coordinator or exchange mentor.

**2. Behavior Expectations of the Participant:** I understand that as a participant, I have the responsibility to contribute to the success of the Activity by conducting myself in a manner that reflects favorably on The Athenian School and all participants in the exchange program. I certify that I will complete all preparation activities as mandated by The Athenian School’s Exchange Program and will complete all follow-up activities. I further understand that The Athenian School reserves the right to decline to approve my application to participate in the Activity or to decline to provide continuing support for my participation in the Activity at any time should my actions impede the operation of The Athenian School’s Exchange Program or the rights or welfare of any person.

**3. Participant Obligations Relating to Medical Needs and Insurance:** By signing this Participation Agreement I agree:

A. To furnish The Athenian School’s Exchange Program with requested medical information.

B. To bear all financial responsibility for any medical treatment arising from my participation in the Athenian School's Exchange Program, and specifically to obtain and maintain throughout the Activity coverage under a policy of comprehensive health and accident insurance. Such policy shall provide coverage for injuries and illnesses I sustain or experience while participating in the Activity, or as a consequence of my participation in the Activity. The Athenian School shall not provide medical insurance for, or assume financial responsibility for, any injury or illness I may incur while participating in the Activity or as a consequence of my participation in the Activity.

**4. RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

**In return for The Athenian School providing for my participation in the Activity and having read and understood this Participation Agreement, I hereby voluntarily agree to the following:**

A. I RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE The Athenian School, its affiliates, trustees, officers, employees or agents, (hereinafter referred to as RELEASEES) for any liability, claim, and/or cause of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury or harm of any sort, including death or imprisonment, that may be sustained by me, and for damage to any property belonging to me, that occurs as a result of my traveling to or from any site in connection with the Activity, or as a result of my participation in the Activity, except any liability, claims, causes of action, losses, damages or injuries caused directly by the negligent acts or omissions. It is my intent and agreement that the terms of this paragraph 4 shall bind any person asserting rights on my behalf, or otherwise asserting claims by or through me, including my spouse, family members, heirs, assigns and personal representatives.

B. I further agree that this Participation Agreement, including this paragraph 4 shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of California.

[NOTE: Participant and the Participant's Parent/Guardian agree that this Participation Agreement may be executed in counterparts (i.e., each required signature may appear on separate printed copies of the Participation Agreement), and that such counterpart versions each shall be deemed an original and together shall constitute one and the same document for legal purposes.]

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the parent or guardian of the above-named Participant. I have reviewed this Participation Agreement and the description of the Activity, have discussed it with my child/ward (Participant) and concur with my child/ward's participation in the Activity under the terms of this Participation Agreement.

Parent / Guardian: (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

## Exchange Placement Profile

**Student name:**

**Program Dates:**

**School name:**

**Address:**

**Country:**

**Round Square Coordinator:**

**Coordinator's Email Address:**

**Coordinator's Phone Number:**

**Housing and accommodation:**

**Reflection:** In order to reflect on their experience and share it with others, student will write two entries for the Athenian exchange blog - <http://blogs.athenian.org/AthenianExchanges/>. Students are encouraged, though not required, to keep a journal while on exchange.

**Suggested Readings:** Preparation for the Athenian School's Exchange Program in this country should include reading a book about the nation's history or cultures. The student will be provided with a list of recommended books, along with information and tips from Athenian students that have gone on exchange to this school.

**By signing below, you acknowledge that you have fully reviewed program details related to the Athenian School's Exchange Program described within this document.**

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_