



TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES

If you are planning a trip outside the U.S., even for only one day, you must have your passport, DS 2019, **AND** I-94 card with you in order to return. Your white DS 2019 form must be signed under the section called "Travel Validation by Responsible Officer" indicating you are in good standing with the program. Once your DS 2019 has been signed for Travel Validation, you do not need to have it signed again. **The one-time signature will be valid for travel outside the United States for your entire program year.** The first time you plan a trip outside the United States, you must:

Send your DS 2019 paper to:

Au Pair in America
Attn: Evelyn Blum
9 West Broad Street
Stamford, CT 06902
Telephone number: (800) 928-7247 ext. 5027

This form should be sent at least three weeks prior to travel outside the country. You should only send your white DS 2019. DO NOT SEND YOUR PASSPORT!

- Include the "Travel Validation Request Form" which you can get from your community counselor (or a note if you do not have this) with your DS 2019 stating *where* you will be going and the *dates* of your trip. Remember, once your form has been signed, it does not need to be signed again for another trip.

A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE SHOULD ACCOMPANY ALL DS 2019 FORMS.

- If you are leaving the country within two weeks, and you need to have your validated DS 2019 sent back to you by 2-day UPS, you must include cash, a check, or money order for \$10.00 made payable to AIFS. A complete return mailing address must accompany the check as well as your daytime telephone number. If you are having your DS 2019 returned by UPS, you do not need to provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

NOTE: It is very important to call the embassy or consulate of the country you plan to visit before making your travel plans. Certain nationalities require additional documents (visas) to enter a particular country. (For example, a South African needs a tourist visa to visit Canada.) You can check the Au Pair in America website to find out more about visa requirements for other countries. Make sure you can meet all the travel requirements before purchasing your travel tickets.

Definition of terms:

DS 2019– This white form is required by the United States Embassy or Consulate as proof of acceptance into a cultural exchange program. Immigration officials will stamp your DS 2019 with the date you entered the United States. They will also write "J-1, D/S" on the form indicating you are admitted into the US on a J-1 visa and allowed to remain for the duration of your program (one year). You will need to show this form to Immigration authorities when you reenter the United States after travel abroad.

J-1 Visa – This is a stamp that is placed in an au pair's passport. The visa should be valid for one year and should be a multiple entry visa so that an au pair can leave and reenter the United States multiple times on this visa. Once an au pair has completed her program, she should return home so as to comply with the terms of the J-1 visa.

I-94 – A white arrival/departure card which is usually stapled into your passport by immigration officials upon arrival into the United States. This is a **very** important card which is your permission to stay in the United States, so be sure not to lose it. Please make sure it is stapled into your passport. It is difficult and expensive to replace.

The I-94 card and DS 2019 form will be valid for one year from the date you entered into the United States. This is indicated by a stamp with your arrival date and the code "J-1 D/S". This stamp and code will be in the middle of the I-94 card and in box 6 of the DS 2019 form.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The J-1 visa, together with the DS 2019 and I-94 card permit you to legally reside in the U.S. for up to 12 months as long as you are in good standing with the Au Pair in America Program. Under the terms of this visa you provide care to your host's children. It is illegal for you to perform duties other than those approved by the au pair program regulations, or to engage in other types of employment opportunities. The U. S. Department of State now allows an au pair who has successfully completed her program year to apply for an extension of stay in the U.S. for up to an additional 12 months.

Please note that you have an additional 30 days after your one-year program ends to remain in the United States if you would like to travel or sightsee. However, you may not travel outside the United States or work for your host family during this time as your J-1 visa will have expired.

If you remain in the United States after your program year, you will be considered to be in violation of the terms of your J-1 visa as well as the contractual agreement you made with Au Pair in America and may be reported to immigration authorities. If you do not return home at the end of your program year, you will forfeit your return plane ticket. If you are an Au Pair (standard or extraordinaire) you may also forfeit your completion bonus. Once you have returned to your home country at the end of your program, you may apply to return to the United States on a different visa (such as student or tourist).

If you leave the program early (before the end of your 12-month contract) you will forfeit your completion bonus if you are an Au Pair (standard or extraordinaire). EduCare companions do not receive a completion payment. All program participants leaving the program early are expected to purchase their own return flight home.

Au Pair in America wants you to have an enriching, safe experience. Address any questions you may have regarding your visa or other travel documents by contacting Evelyn Blum at eblum@aifs.com, or telephone 1-800-928-7247, extension 5027.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL AND DOCUMENTS

Because of tighter security at borders and within the United States, Au Pair in America recommends that you carry copies of your documents with you at all times. This includes a copy of the biography page of your passport, a copy of the J-1 visa stamp in your passport and a copy of your I-94 white card which is stapled inside your passport. In addition, you should carry an original photo document such as a driver's license or other identity card. Do not carry your passport with you when you travel in the US. It is very difficult and expensive to replace the visa inside your passport.