



## My SamFam

### Host Family Covenant

Thank you for opening your home and heart to a Samford student. Your willingness to offer hospitality, connection, and care plays a meaningful role in helping students feel supported, known, and connected during their time at Samford. This covenant outlines shared expectations designed to foster healthy relationships, mutual respect, and a positive experience for both students and host families.

#### **Samford Mission Statement:**

*Samford University nurtures persons in their development of intellect, creativity, faith, and personhood. As a Christian university, Samford fosters a community that is deeply committed to both faith and learning, serving God and neighbor.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that as a My SamFam host family, I have a vital role in upholding Samford's Christian mission. By signing this covenant, I pledge to live in accordance with the Christian values and ethical standards of the university, model personal integrity and spiritual growth in my actions and demeanor and support the university's mission to nurture development in faith, intellect, and character.

#### **Our Commitment as a Host Family**

As a **My SamFam** host family, we agree to:

#### **Hospitality & Respect**

- Welcome our student with warmth, kindness, and inclusion while honoring them as an independent adult.
- Create an environment where the student feels safe, respected, and comfortable.
- Understand that participation is voluntary and that students may accept or decline invitations without guilt or explanation.

#### **Communication**

- Communicate clearly and kindly regarding invitations, plans, and expectations.
- Make plans in advance whenever possible and remain flexible with changing student schedules.
- Address concerns or questions to the Director of Parent and Family Engagement, (205-726-2375) or [Parents@Samford.edu](mailto:Parents@Samford.edu) rather than placing students in uncomfortable conversations.

## **Healthy Boundaries**

- Avoid placing expectations on students to attend events, activities, or religious services beyond what is mutually agreed upon.
- Respect the student's privacy and personal boundaries, including what they choose to share about their life, family, or faith.
- Refrain from offering advice on sensitive matters unless invited to do so.
- Refrain from offering financial gifts to students. Innocent financial assistance of cash gifts may be perceived as manipulative and obligatory. If desired, anonymous gifts may be made to assist students with tuition through Samford University or tax-deductible donations may be made to existing scholarships to support Samford students with identified need.

## **Meals, Gatherings & Holidays**

- Extend invitations for meals or gatherings as we are able, with no expectation of financial contribution or household responsibilities from the student unless clearly discussed and agreed upon.
- Be mindful of dietary needs, allergies, or accessibility concerns shared by the student.
- Avoid serving alcohol to students.

## **Safety & Environment**

- Provide a home environment that prioritizes physical and emotional safety.
- No family member should ever be alone with a student.
- Ensure firearms, if present, are properly secured.
- Be mindful of pets and clearly communicate any relevant household considerations.

## **Transportation**

- Offer transportation only when comfortable and with clear communication.
- Understand that transportation should never be expected by the student.

## **Privacy & Social Media**

- Ask for permission before posting photos or sharing personal information about the student.
- Protect the student's contact information and privacy at all times.

## **Program Partnership**

- Understand that our family is committing to host up to two Samford students for the purpose of social connection, conversation and comfort to undergrads who live more than 400 miles from campus. I understand that My SamFam is not an overnight stay program.
- Understand that either the student or host family may request a change in pairing at any time, without explanation or penalty.
- Commit to participating for at least one semester to provide consistency whenever possible.
- Understand that our family must sign a waiver to participate that clarify while Samford is facilitating the connection of families with students, the families and students are each then responsible for the level of participation they choose within the confines of the family and student covenants. This waiver explains what families and students do if they need to report an issue or concern with a placement.

By participating as a **My SamFam** host family, we affirm our shared desire to support Samford students through genuine hospitality, mutual respect, and thoughtful care.

**Host Family Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_