

# ICLC Newsletter



Instituto de Cultura  
y Lengua Costarricense

## Frequently asked questions Preguntas frecuentes

- 1- I am wondering what would be good gift suggestions to buy for my host family?
- 2- How do I need to address "my parents"? first names? Also, I was taught to say yes sir/no sir. Is this appropriate for the Costa Rican culture?
- 3- Do you know of any cell phone rentals companies I could possibly rent a mobile phone from?
- 4- Are there computers at ICLC campus for the students to use?
- 5- Do I need to bring school supplies?
- 6- To save some money on lunch I was hoping to go to the market/grocery store and buy some items to make my lunch everyday, do you think this would be alright?
- 7- Are there ATMs available? Are credit and debit cards accepted?
- 8- Is there a need for any special adaptor to use in Costa Rica for charging cameras, etc?

The answers / Las respuestas

- 1- Your family would appreciate a lot if you think about buying a little present for them. Some gift suggestions:

Chocolates



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Crema perfumada



Gorra



Lapiceros



Un reloj



Cosméticos



Un bolso



Paños para el baño

Camisetas



If you bring a small gift, your family will feel happy and grateful and will say:



**¡Muchas gracias!** (Thanks)  
You can respond:  
**¡Con mucho gusto!**  
(Your welcome)

**2- The appropriate way to address "your parents" is using don or doña in front of the name:**

doña Xenia  
don Benito



Latter, if you start feeling part of the family, you could ask them if they like that you use:

mami  
papi

When responding you can be proper saying:

Sí señora - No señora  
Sí señor - No señor

**3- We do not recommend to rent cell phones in Costa Rica because is unusual here and very expensive.**

If you wish to keep in touch with family and friends back home:

- you can buy international calling cards at ICLC campus. There is a public phone available on campus.
- you can use internet at ICLC or in the neighborhood where you will live.
- you can bring your own computer or iphone to opt for WI-FI service on campus. That will permit you to use Skype, video and any other services available through internet.
- you can tell your family to call you to the host family home, every day around 8 p.m. (after your dinner time).

**We do not recommend using your own cell phone in CR. The reasons:**

- the telephone access must be requested to your phone company before arrival to Costa Rica
- is very expensive, when receiving phone calls and also when dialing, because they will be international calls
- there is no way to guarantee a good reception



**4- Yes, there are computers on campus that students use (\$1 fee per hour / 15 minutes: minimum).**

- Participants with their own computer or iphone are able to opt for Wi Fi on ICLC campus.

Ideal if you want to use Skype and other ways of communication. Price varies according to duration of the program.

Recommendation for your safety: be cautious when carrying the computer (for example: not walking alone). Many students carrying valuable things use taxis daily, because is safer and inexpensive.

**5- Yes, please bring school supplies:**

- Notebook, pencil, eraser, color highlighters (to mark important things).
- Blank cards, to create your own materials that will help you during the learning experience.
- Paper with lines to present your daily homework to the teacher. A plastic file to keep your papers clean and dry.

**6- Yes, you can go to the market/grocery store and buy some items to make your lunch everyday, if you wish to save some money.**

There is a fridge and microwave at ICLC campus, for students to use. Just make sure to storage groceries only from Monday through Friday, because every Friday someone will clean the fridge and nothing left will be saved.



**7- Yes, there are ATMs.**

They are the best way available to get cash during day time. For your safety, never go to an ATM at night.



- Credit or debit cards (with international access) are accepted in Costa Rica. Make sure you review international accessibility of your own card, before arrival to Costa Rica.

## 8- Yes, sometimes it is necessary to use an adapter.

Costa Rica's electrical system is the same as the electrical system in the United States. Electrical outlets here are 110 V, with standard USA two-prong plugs (or three-prong if grounded).

In some locations you may find older electrical outlets with only 2 slot and those do not work on many modern computer and photo devices that use a 3-prong grounded plug.

You could bring a 3-prong to 2-prong adapter plug but you can also find the adapters in Costa Rica.

