



Dear Parent,

Thank you for considering the opportunity to send your son or daughter on a Passages' Leadership Development trip with my company, Ascend International. I have four children of my own so I understand the concerns you may have in sending your son or daughter on such a trip. I want you to know, first and foremost, that I will care for your son or daughter the way I would my own. Because of that, I will assure the following:

- We will do our best to have your son or daughter travel with others both to and from China. It is never our intent to have someone travel internationally, alone. If it seems we have to do this, we will inform the student and make sure we are doing our best to minimize any risk involved. Of course, we will consult with you, as parent, as well.
- Once in the USA, we will place them with a host family. The host family is carefully selected by my company. These are loving and gracious families, who want to meet, interact, care and build a friendship with your child. You will have opportunity to be introduced before your son or daughter leaves China.
- Supervision. Your child will not be allowed to deviate from the group unless we are in a shopping area or such where the space is contained. I coach students on safety and expect all students to comply with instructions in these regards. When not with the group, your child will be under the careful supervision of the host family. They too will care for your son or daughter as I would.
- Medical Insurance. AI purchases a short term medical insurance policy that can be used should your son or daughter need to visit a doctor while in the USA. As you know, the USA has some of the best medical care available in the world. We are confident should your child need medical care while on the trip, he/she will have some of the best available anywhere.
- Travel. As you are aware, part of the summer will be spent visiting companies in other cities and touring Washington, DC. In these places we will travel as a group and stay in hotels. Again, my company will provide excellent supervision and team members will not be allowed to go out alone.
- Communication and staying in touch. Virtually every home and public place in the USA has wifi. You can easily reach your son/daughter most any time you wish while they are in the USA. You can also see their daily life as we will post photos of our activities each day on our WEChat group: AI-USA. Please join it!

Of course, any time you travel there is risk. No one can assure 100% safety in the USA or China, but I believe we have done all we can to minimize risk. We have never had an incident endangering a student in my six years of running these programs.

If you are like me, as a parent, you also want to know any potential risk, even small, also provides opportunity that may help my child for his/her future. Passages really can and will help your son or daughter in their future. We really do equip them with the skills, relationships and training that will prepare them to be good leaders, employees, citizens, spouses and parents.

If you would like to talk to any past participants or even Chinese students I know who live here in the USA about me, my company or safety, please let me know. I can arrange this.

I will close with a note from Shuang Liang, a former participant in our program. I hope you will find her words both comforting and inspiring to you as you consider this decision:

当我还在北卡州立念书的时候我就认识Guy和他的妻子了。他们夫妇非常热心肠，对帮助国际学生满有热忱。去年我从Guy那儿得知Ascend International的项目时，对于其中一个夏天的实习机会非常有兴趣。我十分感恩Guy当时考虑到我的情况并接受我加入他的项目。暑假的时候我见到了其他参加这个项目的学生，他们来自国内不同的大学，我也很开心能认识他们。我常想如果自己在国内读书时知道这样的机会就好了，我肯定会申请。在我看来，去体验不同的文化尤其是工作经验，对于自己将来职业道路的选择有很大帮助。与此同时我开始了实习。在这里我的实验技能得到很大的拓展。对我而言那是一段很好的训练时期，学习到很多实用的技术对于在工业界找工作也很有帮助。在我实习结束的时候，我的老板告诉他愿意给我一份工作。这个消息简直就像梦一样，好的有点不真实。无数的感谢给予Guy，因为他在整个过程中的支持和帮助。如果不是通过Guy的项目，我不可能得到这份工作。参加Ascend international项目的经历对我而言十分宝贵。时至今日，我仍然时常想起去年夏天每一个令人怀念的时刻。

Sincerely,

Guy Armstrong

Founder and President