



## **Relocation Information for International applicants**

Colorado Springs is a city of approximately 500,000 people spread over a very wide area and lies approximately 6000 ft. above sea level. Woodland Park is a town of approx. 7,500 people with an altitude of 8500 ft. above sea level. The elevation at the college is approximately 8900 ft.

Due to the cities being in the mountains at high altitudes with very low humidity, students may need time to adjust to the climatic conditions, depending on the area from which they have come. Keeping constantly hydrated with water and using skin moisturizers is a necessity.

Also keep in mind you will need warm clothing for most of your stay. We can get snow from September – May.

## **HERE ARE SOME TIPS THAT WILL HELP YOU ACCLIMATE TO THE HIGHER ALTITUDE**

Keep these top 6 high altitude tips in mind to help your body adjust and prevent altitude sickness.

1. Stay below 7,000 feet the first day (the city of Colorado Springs is 6,035 feet above sea level.)
2. Give your body time to adjust. Avoid strenuous exercise the first day.
3. Limit alcohol intake. Alcohol binds oxygen and water and robs your body of these two important nutrients. It also slows the acclimation process.
4. Drink more water. The air is drier and your body will dehydrate much more quickly. The higher up you go, the more water you should drink. A minimum of 1 liter of water for every 4 hours of inactivity and 1 liter of water for every 2 hours of activity. You will find the more water you drink the better you feel. Dehydration will cause the intensity of symptoms especially headaches.
5. Always travel with a companion. If someone begins to experience severe coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath or chest pain, get him or her to a lower altitude as quickly as possible.
6. The effects of some drugs such as tranquilizers can be greatly increased at higher altitudes. Be sure to check with your doctor first before exerting yourself at higher altitudes.

Note: When hiking be sure to follow the high-altitude instructions.

- Keep in mind that different people will acclimatize at different rates. Make sure all of your party is properly acclimatized before going higher.
- Take it easy; don't over-exert yourself when you first get up to altitude. Light activity during the day is better than sleeping because respiration decreases during sleep, exacerbating the symptoms.
- The acclimatization process is inhibited by dehydration or over-exertion.

**If you have any breathing difficulties it may be best for you to live in Colorado Springs, and come up to school for the 4-5 hours a day and then return to Colorado Springs.**

A general free visitor guide can be downloaded from the following website for Colorado Springs: [www.visitcos.com](http://www.visitcos.com)

You can request a visitor's packet for Woodland Park on the following website. [www.woodlandparkchamber.com](http://www.woodlandparkchamber.com)

### Top 3 things you need to arrange when arriving:

- Cell phone that works in the USA
- International Driver's License – IDP
- Set up online banking before you leave your home country

 Temporary Housing should be arranged before you leave your home country, one week minimum.

### Considerations

- There is a common misconception that everything is cheaper in the U.S. That is not the case with the exception of gasoline. Do your research before you travel.
- Temporary accommodation – arrange for short term accommodation such as hotel/motel while finding suitable permanent accommodation for at least the first week you are here unless you have secured housing prior to arriving. A list of hotels is located in the next section.
- Personal transport – It may be necessary for you to purchase a vehicle as there is not adequate public transportation in Colorado Springs and the Woodland Park area. For details see (“*Transportation, Driver's License, Vehicle Purchase and Insurance Requirements*”) included in this document.
- Banking – students are able to open accounts with banks in the USA, but should check with their local bank to ensure they can transfer funds into accounts with banks in Colorado Springs/Woodland Park. Not all overseas banks have links to banks in Colorado Springs/Woodland Park. Fees apply. You will need your passport/s and other forms of identification to open a new account.
- Mobile/ Cell phones – You may use international roaming, or purchase a new phone or use your unlocked phone with an American carrier once you arrive in USA. We can provide some basic information on US service providers if necessary.
- Computer access. Check to ensure that you have the proper adapters for your computer and all other electrical items.
- Sales tax will be added to the total of each purchase you make. It is not included in the price. No sales tax is added to food purchases at the grocer or supermarket.
- There are lots of fees added, so be aware with banks and mobile phone, etc. The price does not include fees.

### Temporary Accommodations

Below is a list of hotels closest to Charis Bible College in Woodland Park, Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs. We do not have special rates, so you will need to research the cost and review the hotel quality on your own.

Woodland Park Country Lodge  
723 US Highway 24 W, Woodland Park, CO 80863  
(719) 687-6277  
<http://www.woodlandcountrylodge.com/>  
(1.7 miles, 4 minutes)

Eagle Fire Lodge & Conference Center  
777 East Highway 24, Woodland Park, CO 80863  
(719) 687-5700  
[www.eaglefirelodge.com](http://www.eaglefirelodge.com)  
(3 miles, 6 minutes)

Cascade Lodge Motel  
7885 US Hwy 24, Cascade, CO 80809  
(719) 433-3914 | (719) 694-8611  
(13.5 miles, 18 minutes)

America's Best Value Inn Villa Motel  
481 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829-2318  
(719) 685-5492  
[www.reservationdesk.com/Americas-Best](http://www.reservationdesk.com/Americas-Best)  
(15.7 miles, 23 minutes)

Comfort Inn Manitou Springs  
45 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
(719) 685-5455  
[Reservation-Desk.com/Comfort-Inn](http://Reservation-Desk.com/Comfort-Inn)  
(16.7 miles, 23 minutes)

Days Inn Manitou Springs  
120 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
(719) 685-1312  
[DaysInn.questreservations.com](http://DaysInn.questreservations.com)  
(16.6 miles, 23 minutes)

Best Western Skyway Inn & Suites (closed for WINTER)  
311 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
(800) 568-8520  
[bestwestern.com/Rewards](http://bestwestern.com/Rewards)  
(16.6 miles, 23 minutes)

Mecca Motel (closed for WINTER)  
3518 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904  
(719) 520-1215  
<http://meccamotelcolorado.com>  
(17.2 miles, 24 minutes)

Bed & Breakfast Bristlecone Lodge (B&B, Cabins & RV Park)  
510 North Highway 67, Woodland Park, Colorado 80863  
(719) 687-9518  
[www.bristleconelodge.com](http://www.bristleconelodge.com)  
(1.6 miles, 3 minutes)

Pikes Peak Paradise Bed and Breakfast  
236 Pinecrest Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863  
(800) 728-8282  
[www.pikespeakparadise.com](http://www.pikespeakparadise.com)  
(2.7 miles, 9 minutes)

Woodland Inn Bed and Breakfast (B&B and Cabins)  
159 Trull Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863  
(719) 687-8209 | (800) 226-9565  
<http://www.woodlandinn.com>  
(3.1 miles, 6 minutes)

Edgewood Inn  
10975 Loy Creek Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863  
(719) 687-0845  
<https://www.edgewoodwp.com>  
(5.1 miles, 12 minutes)

Specialty Lodging  
Pikes Peak Resort (Luxury Cabins)  
943 Painted Rocks Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863  
<http://www.pikespeakresort.com>  
(719) 687-9777 | 888-687-9777  
(9.4 miles, 17 minutes)

Christ Haven Lodge  
178 Palmer Drive, Florissant, CO 80816  
(719) 687-3425  
<http://www.christhaven.net>  
(11.2 miles, 18 minutes)

## Communications

Wireless internet is available to students at Charis during school hours. There is no international phone line available for students at Charis. Students should ensure that they have their mobile/cell phones modified so that they can call internationally on arrival. Later you can explore US mobile providers. Verizon is probably one of the best in Colorado. It's a little more expensive on monthly contracts but the signal and geographical area is far more extensive.

## Housing

Due to several large military bases in the area, the population in Colorado Springs is quite transient and therefore it is relatively easy to find accommodation. Colorado Springs has many housing options including apartments, condos and houses, **mostly unfurnished**. There are few furnished accommodations available.

Woodland Park, being a smaller community has fewer housing choices. They are available. Some options are; check Woodland Park Yellow Pages for apartment contact information or E-mail Tennie Goen in Student Services for current postings of available housing at [tenniegoen@awmcharis.com](mailto:tenniegoen@awmcharis.com). We recommend securing housing after you arrive, to avoid scams and enable you to see the accommodation in person.

- **Rent – be aware you must have at least 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent and security deposit.**

Rent varies but is higher than many other parts of the country

- 1 bedroom range from \$600 (Room in a Home) to \$1100.00+
- 2 bedroom range from \$950 to \$1500.00
- 3+ bedroom can range from \$1200.00 – \$1800.00
- Most apartments and homes **do not come furnished**

- **Approximate cost for food, toiletries, cleaning supplies/per month**

- Single person \$200.00
- Couple \$350.00
- Family \$700.00 (Family of 4-6) Depending on eating habits.
- Additional amounts will be necessary depending on the size of the family.

The above is only a guideline, properties can be cheaper or more expensive dependent on the geographical area you would like to reside and the condition of the property. *The required amounts \$20,000 USD individual and \$30,640 Couple both attending (for each dependent add \$5000) will require sacrifice, discipline, and possible joint housing arrangements with other students and/or families to make it through the year on this amount of money.*

Sharing accommodations with other students is available but should be arranged by the students themselves. You may contact Tennie Goen for a relocation packet and information about Charis Word of Mouth. This will probably be the most cost-effective way to rent but is more suited to individuals and not families.

Charis provides a notice board where students can place advertisements seeking accommodation or providing accommodation on site.

- **Utilities** can be an additional expense not included in the rent and the costs can vary depending on the size of your room, apartment or home. Advertisements state if any

utilities are included. Internet and cable TV service is also an additional monthly expense, and the cost will depend on the kind of service you require. Average cost of internet is \$200.00 - \$300.00 with cable or satellite service being an additional expense.

- **Sales Tax** - All retail purchases in Colorado will have sales tax added to the list price at the time of purchase. These amounts vary by city.
- **Immunizations** for children should be up to date before they are enrolled in school. For a list of required immunizations contact the school district you are planning on attending. Bring copies of your children's school records. School district information is included in this packet.
- **Children related costs** - There will be additional expenses for children – childcare, school fees, sports fees, etc. If you home school, you will need to purchase curriculum. Please take this into consideration in planning. Children are not allowed in class at Charis Bible College.

## Important Information About Renting

If you are directly renting a property or sharing a rental, you may be required to take out "Renters Insurance." This is a pre-requisite of the rental contract with the relevant Realtor / Rental Company. Renter's insurance covers all your belongings and personal effects from theft and other possible loss. Renter's Insurance is relatively inexpensive and is dependent on the level of coverage you require and the monetary value of your belongings.

- Locations to look for used furniture and household items:
- Storehouse Ministries –Woodland Park Community Church
- Goodwill
- Arc Stores
- Salvation Army Thrift stores
- Craig's List

## Transportation

**Public transportation is virtually non-existent.** You will need transportation (You might be able to bicycle to the store, etc. but it is not feasible for transportation to school in most situations due to mountainous terrain and wintery weather – (It can snow as early as September – and as late as May.) Vehicle insurance is required in Colorado.

### Transportation, Driver's License, Vehicle Purchase & Insurance Requirements

There is no public transport that can be relied upon for attending Charis or for shopping etc. While students frequently use car-pooling, it is advantageous to have your own transportation. We recommend a rental car for at least a week.

Students are able to purchase a vehicle in Colorado (Please note there will be approximately 8.25% tax added to the cost of your vehicle when purchasing in Colorado Springs; there are also registration fees that are based on the overall cost of the car which are not included in the above-mentioned tax). Before you can register a vehicle, you must prove you have insurance on that vehicle. There are two methods for you to obtain insurance. You must either have:

1. An international driver's license, which you should obtain from your country before you come to Colorado, **or**
2. A Colorado driver's license – (only obtainable until 10 days after school starts).

**Note:** You cannot obtain insurance if you only have a valid driver's license from your country. The very minimum you will need is an IDP (International Driving Permit) from your country of residence.

A Colorado license will only be valid for the period of your visa. If you arrive earlier or stay longer, you will need to rely on your IDP to drive. For each visa period you will be required to obtain a new driver's license. When deciding whether to drive on an IDP or a Colorado license you should take into account the license cost and any driver training you may desire to take.

**Please use the following link for full “Colorado Driving Laws” and advice in helping gain your Colorado driver's license –**

[www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Revenue-MV/RMV/1196845313325](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Revenue-MV/RMV/1196845313325)

Please note that if you want to obtain a Colorado Springs Driver's License, you will be required to take a written test, an eye test and then finally a physical driving test. You will need to study the “Colorado Driving Handbook” before you take your written test, which is a series of multiple choice questions before progressing to the other areas. You can either download the PDF enclosed in this document “Colorado Springs Driving Handbook” or directly off the website detailed above.

### **Important Paperwork Procedure**

You will need to take full identification including your passport, I-20, I-94, your current driving license (if you have one), proof of your current address in the US (utility bill or renter's insurance document etc.) to the DMV Office to start the driving license process. Contact details:

Colorado Springs Department of Motor Vehicle Office  
2447 North Union Boulevard  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
719-594-8701

Please note that if you are going to take your physical driving test in a rental vehicle, make sure you tell the rental company in advance and verify that they will insure you whilst you take the test. Some rental companies will not insure you, so please be aware.

Be prepared. If you are going to the DMV Office, please take your rental vehicle policy & insurance confirmation (if you can get written confirmation) plus all the documentation listed above. It would be good to call the DMV office to see if you need an enrollment letter from the college. You will need about \$30.00 to pay the license fee for your temporary license while you are there. (You may pay by cash or debit/credit card)

If you think this is too much hassle to gain your Colorado Springs driving license in the above manner and you may actually need some driving lessons then the company that's opposite the DMV Office will let you use their own vehicles and you can take the test in their cars as well.

## **Obtaining Health Insurance**

**Medical insurance** – The college does not have student insurance available.

Obtaining health insurance in the US is very costly and hard to obtain for international students. We highly recommend you obtain health insurance before you leave your country.

## **Vaccinations**

**If parents want their children vaccinated to comply with the school of choice and the school's requirements, then we highly recommend getting children vaccinated in your home country prior to leaving for the USA. It will be a lot cheaper especially if you are exiting from the EU! Please remember to bring all vaccination records to the USA so you can provide proof to the school.**

All schools require children to be vaccinated prior to starting school or parents have the option to sign a waiver at the school of their choice to say they have already had the required vaccination or they do not want their children to be vaccinated against that particular virus / disease etc... Please see the individual school's information regarding what is required. It does change slightly from school district to school district.

## **Medical Information**

We would advise prior to leaving your country of origin and entering the USA to ask your doctors, General Practitioner's, or hospitals, for full copies of your medical history. Adults as well as children! This is especially advised if you or your children have any existing medical conditions that might need attention in the US, or if you are trying to gain medical coverage from companies in the USA while living here. Finally, it will be good general information in case it is required at any stage with a local medical practice or doctor's office. There might be a small charge from your home country / doctor's, etc. to have your medical history printed off, but again, it's well worth doing.

It will be more cost effective to have medical exams and vaccinations before leaving your home country. Contact the school your children will be attending for their requirements. You will need a vaccination record, or you will need to sign a vaccination waiver form for your children to enter public school.

We suggest that you get Health Insurance before you travel – Backpackers is one option to investigate.

## **Public School information**

Regarding state schools, there are public schools, charter schools and private Christian School, as well as home schooling options.

The public school district current campus is located in Woodland Park School District RE2. Their website is:

### **Woodland Park School District RE2**

[www.wpsdk12.org](http://www.wpsdk12.org) (719) 687-9229

**\*\*\* Remember you must also register your children for school. You may not just drop them off at school the first day. They will need immunization records and school transcripts in English. See the housing relocation guide for more information on the school districts. \*\*\***

<b>Colorado Springs Area School District Information</b>	<b>Area Christian Schools</b>
<b>Colorado Springs School District 11</b> <a href="http://www.d11.org">www.d11.org</a> (719) 520-2000	<b>Colorado Springs Christian Schools (Pre – 12)</b> <a href="http://www.cscslions.org">www.cscslions.org</a> (719) 599-3553
<b>Cheyenne Mountain School District 12</b> <a href="http://www.cmsd.k12.co.us">www.cmsd.k12.co.us</a> (719) 475-6100	
<b>Harrison School District 2</b> <a href="http://www.hsd2.org">www.hsd2.org</a> (719) 579-2080	<b>Evangelical Christian Academy (Pre-12)</b> (719) 634-7024 Elementary Campus (719) 597-3675 Secondary Campus <a href="http://www.ECAEagles.org">www.ECAEagles.org</a>
<b>Academy School District 20</b> <a href="http://www.asd20.org">www.asd20.org</a> (719) 234-1200	
<b>Falcon School District 49</b> <a href="http://www.d49.org">www.d49.org</a> (719) 495-2261	<b>Pikes Peak Christian School (Pre-9)</b> (719) 598-8610
<b>Widefield School District 3</b> <a href="http://wsd3.org">wsd3.org</a> (719) 391-3000	
<b>Lewis Palmer School District 38</b> <a href="http://www.lewispalmer.org">www.lewispalmer.org</a> (719) 488-4700	

## **Home Schooling Information**

### **Christian Home Educators of Colorado (CHEC)**

[www.chec.org](http://www.chec.org)

(720) 842-4852

(877) 842-2432 toll free

Email: [office@chec.org](mailto:office@chec.org)

10431 South Parker Road Parker, CO 80134

### **High Country Home Educators (Presented by New Life Church)**

[www.hche.org](http://www.hche.org)

PO Box 62284

Colorado Springs, CO 80962

Support Group:

Pam Newberg, SG

Administrator

[SGAdmin@hghe.org](mailto:SGAdmin@hghe.org)

**International students should understand that all the information given in this document is provided in good faith and is for your benefit, but ultimately you are responsible for the decisions you make and the people or companies used.**