

SOCIAL LIFE IN AMERICA

*Ahmedov Azimjon Ilhomovich the teacher of
Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages*

Jalolov Jasurbek Hayitboy o'g'li.

*Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages,
Teaching methods and translation studies, 2nd year's student*

Annotation. From this article we can learn about the society life in America and also their friendship, culture and soon. Americans are hardworking and obsessed with success and material comfort. They believe in equality and freedom, and they hold that love can conquer all.

Key words: Study, different programs, very friendly, medical services, Knowledge of the culture.

Society plays a very important role in making who you are. it is one of those things you can't even live without nor you can live in. but then there are certain ways by which you can have fun , do what you love and still be part of it. Although saying and following it is quite easy when we are in our home town but it becomes quite a challenge when studying abroad. Although every country has its own charm and history when it comes to the united states, there is something more to it.

So, how to develop a social life in United States Of America? Do you really need one? Aren't you there to study? Yes you are there to study but there is much more to it.

The moment you enter the college in the states the first thing that will happen is “ The International Student Orientation Program”, traditionally coordinated by the admissions office or the office of international program. Although orientation programs vary from college to college, the basic reason for all of them is to introduce the non US students to the life at college. There would be topics about immigration, academic advice, library sources, public safety, medical services etc.

The campus is designed to foster friendship. So you would easily find a student activities center. It helps you to learn about the different programs or activities about to happen in the college. It could be a newspaper staff or outdoor club or chorus or dance, whichever one you prefer.

The best way of developing friendships is to know yourself. You are not there to learn about their culture. It is a kind of culture exchange that takes place. When you ask them about their culture, they are often equally interested in knowing yours. And if you don't know about your culture, could be a problem for you.

Americans are very friendly and still are not friends. I am not trying to be mean with them, but the point is they tend to greet you very friendly. Sometimes you could find

them asking stuff about you and then go and ask it to someone else. You could feel as if they are being rude, but for them that is a way of greeting people. They greet everyone politely and sometimes more friendly. It is better to know that they are just acquaintances. Making friends is lot more tougher. There is no issue with Americans. It is just like making friends in a new place. Sometimes things will hit you straight on your head, sometimes they will work out for you.

Remember not to be pushy. If someone wants to be your friends they will make equal efforts and you will know it.

So, make friends but don't be pushy about it. Learn to live happily with the things you have. May be things don't work out right, work harder. Remember you are there to enjoy the time of your life, and this will only happen if you have a work life balance. Make sure you have one.

In adjusting to any new culture, it is helpful to have some knowledge of the culture. Even though the U.S. population is made up of many different ethnic groups, and that fact is one of the defining characteristics of the United States, it is still possible to talk about some shared "mainstream" values. The following explanation of these values may help you to know who Americans are. It may help you to tell whether puzzling American behavior is due to cultural conflict or individual differences. A discussion of cultural values is not about being right or wrong; it is about different ways of doing things. Remember that these are generalizations; sometimes they will be relevant, sometimes they will not. The information provided here is an adaptation by Harvard University of Appendix 5 of NAFSA's International Student Handbook: A Guide to University Study in the USA; and also of the Yale University OISS Handbook for International Students and Scholars.

Individualism and Privacy

Perhaps the most important thing to understand about Americans is their devotion to individualism. From an early age, children are trained to be independent and responsible for their own futures. Such training may sometimes lead to a seeming lack of respect for parents in particular and older people in general. Along with valuing individualism is a need for privacy, for time alone. Privacy often begins at an early age, with children sleeping in separate rooms from their parents and even giving each child a separate bedroom (if parents can afford it). Although Americans are welcoming people, most expect even friends to phone first before dropping in at their homes. Casual unannounced visits are less common than in some other cultures.

Informality

The idea of equality leads Americans to be fairly informal in their behavior and in their relationships with others. You will see such informality in dress, language (particularly in use of first names and slang), posture, and classroom activities like eating

in class, asking many questions and making comments, etc. Invitations may be very casual and often are not written.

Time

You may have heard the expression “Time is money.” Strange as it sounds, that is how Americans view time, as a limited resource to be saved or spent for useful purposes. Americans may get impatient with lines that move slowly in supermarkets, banks, etc. particularly if the checkout person or bank teller is taking time to chat with a customer. In practical terms, this means that Americans will usually be on time for meetings and engagements and will keep a schedule of their activities and expect others to do the same. You should arrive on time for meals and appointments with professors, doctors, and other professionals. You can arrive anytime between the hours specified for informal parties and receptions. If you are unable to keep an appointment, you should call the person to say that you will be late or unable to get there. In meetings and professional encounters being organized is highly valued, whereas “wasting time” in “idle” conversation is not.

Achievement, Action, Work, and Materialism

By definition, achievers whose lives are mainly concerned with accomplishments that can be measured, are admired by Americans. Doing something is very important; even in leisure pursuits. Americans are very active in contrast to others who enjoy sitting and talking. The ideals of action and accomplishment prevail. Because of this, Americans tend to be identified by their work. When meeting new acquaintances, the first question you may be asked is likely to be: “What do you do?” instead of any questions about your family or your background.

Americans generally consider themselves to be very frank and direct in their dealings with others. When talking to someone about something they don’t like about a person’s behavior, they may call it “constructive” criticism. Most Americans do not think it is necessary to disguise their feelings; even if their words are not open, facial expressions may be revealing. Being honest is often seen to be more important than preserving harmony in interpersonal relationships. Being assertive in expressing opinions or making requests is considered acceptable, and even necessary (remember the importance of individualism), but being too “pushy” or aggressive is not. Distinguishing the fine line between the two is difficult even for Americans.

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