AMERICAN mensa LTD.

SIGHT HANDBOOK

Service of Information, Guidance & Hospitality to Travelers

A Guide for Local SIGHT Coordinators

First Edition, January 2002

The High IQ Society

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

SIGHT

(Service of Information Guidance & Hospitality to Travelers)

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AMERICAN mensa LTD.

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Dear SIGHT Coordinator:

Welcome to SIGHT (Service of Information Guidance & Hospitality to Travelers)!

Now, that does not sound right; I know many of you have been involved with SIGHT for many years. In fact, when you read the testimonials later in this publication, you will notice that many of us have been involved with SIGHT for 20 years or more. Therefore, let me just say "welcome to the new SIGHT Handbook."

First I must say a big thank you to Tanya Hsu, who did most of the work in preparing this handbook. Thanks also to those who helped her; DeAnna Freshwater, Joanna Soper (national membership officer) and Paige Faulkner (membership director) at the National Office.

If you are a SIGHT veteran, you do not need me to tell you what a great program SIGHT is or the rewards you get by being involved in it. For those who have just become involved, you will find it very rewarding.

Our Annual Gatherings and Regional Gatherings are a great way to meet new and interesting people, to feel part of the great Mensa family, and to make lifetime friends. You get all of those benefits from SIGHT, but on a more personal level.

As a SIGHT guest, when you visit an unfamiliar city or country, you not only receive a warm welcome and are treated as a special guest and a member of the family, but you get to attend events and places that the average tourist never hears about.

As a SIGHT host, you get to meet and share experiences with wonderful, interesting, compatible people from all around the world. Some will become lifetime friends.

What does the local SIGHT coordinator get out of this? Well, you make a lot of people happy and, of course, you can be a SIGHT host and guest as well.

This handbook has been prepared to make your job easier. It should contain everything you will need to know. It has ideas for publicity and recruiting new hosts, as well as all the forms you will need to make the program run smoothly. Read it and use it!

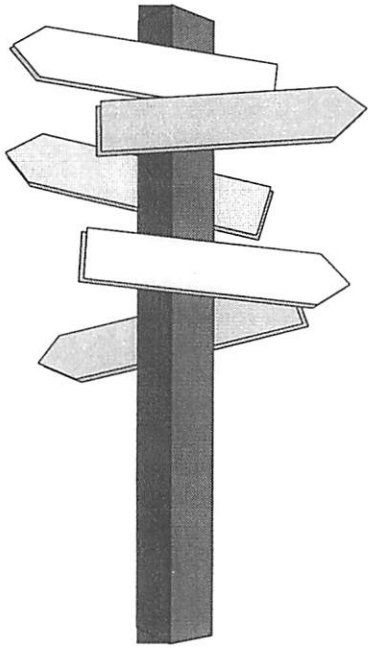
Remember that the list of U.S. SIGHT coordinators is published in the March and September *Bulletins*. If you cannot find the one you are looking for, or for overseas coordinators, or if I can help in any way, please contact me in one of the ways listed above.

Best regards,

Bob Cox
National SIGHT Coordinator, AML

HOW SIGHT WORKS

(The Easy Way)



- Guests (who must be a member of Mensa) obtain local SIGHT coordinator contact information from biannual *Mensa Bulletin* directory or by contacting the national SIGHT coordinator or the National Office.
- Guest contacts local SIGHT coordinator in area to be visited; gives all pertinent information.
- Local SIGHT coordinator contacts suitable host, according to requirements of guest.
- Local SIGHT coordinator responds to guest with host's contact information (telephone number, email, address).
- Guest contacts host directly with all requirements; agrees to host's terms.
- Visit made, friendship blossoms, all live happily ever after.....

Another success story for Mensa!

SIGHT (Service for Information, Guidance, & Hospitality to Travelers)

An overview

The SIGHT program is in place in more than 40 countries throughout the world. Many members use SIGHT regularly, and many more intend to use the program in the future.

To participate, a local SIGHT coordinator is appointed and their primary function is to match potential guests with suitable hosts in his or her area. Once the local coordinator has been contacted by the guest, he or she will find the appropriate host for the guest, dependent upon requirements. The local coordinator will match the guest to the host in that area, passing along details of arrival and departure times, duration of stay, etc. The host then communicates thereafter directly with the guest.

Your local group may receive one request per year from SIGHT guests or it may receive scores, depending upon the popularity of your area. Often the information is brief enough that the local coordinator can answer guests' queries immediately.

No local coordinator or host has any obligation to take care of the incoming guest, and politely declining a guest if the request is not suitable is perfectly in order. In the unlikely event that a guest is not what the host expected (different gender, different habits, etc.), then the host may suggest that an alternative host be contacted, or other accommodations need to be arranged if a place to stay is involved.

When a new local SIGHT coordinator is selected, the LocSec informs the national SIGHT coordinator, who approves the nomination. A package of information is then sent to the new local coordinator by the national SIGHT coordinator. If any problems occur with the local SIGHT program in any way, the local SIGHT coordinator should be notified so that he or she can inform the national SIGHT coordinator as soon as possible.

SIGHT glossary of terms

What is a SIGHT host?

A host is a Mensa member who has registered with their Local SIGHT Coordinator to provide information, guidance or hospitality to visiting Mensans.

What is a SIGHT guest?

A guest is a Mensan from another city or another country visiting your area. The guest wants to be treated as a friend rather than a tourist.

What is the local SIGHT Coordinator?

The Local SIGHT Coordinator is someone approved by the LocSec and the National SIGHT Coordinator to administer the local program. They receive requests from guests and find suitable hosts.

What is the National SIGHT Coordinator?

The National SIGHT Coordinator is appointed by AMC to oversee the program in USA. Guests traveling overseas or unable to locate a Local SIGHT Coordinator in areas they wish to visit, should contact the National SIGHT Coordinator.

SIGHT Q&A

What do incoming Mensans want from the SIGHT program?

Some SIGHT guests are looking for accommodation, some want travel tips, some look for Mensa activity information, and some are looking for a new way to meet friends with shared interests. Some would like to experience all of the above. It is advisable to gather some information for your city, such as hotel pricing, transportation information (taxis, buses, trains, etc.), favorite restaurants, and so on. However, most guests want exactly what a local coordinator or host would want: the chance to meet like-minded people who share the same interests and hobbies, who like to share their stories about Mensa and their travels, and who like to open up a little part of themselves to new friends.

How can local members use SIGHT?

Each member can benefit from knowing how SIGHT works and how they can use it when making their travel plans. Copies of guest registration forms can be passed along to members to facilitate understanding of the program's rules and to provide information for when they travel using the program. When local members are ready to plan their trips, the local coordinator can suggest a coordinator in the region requested or suggest the member contact the national SIGHT coordinator directly.

Is there any cost when using SIGHT?

No fees are required to use the program, except the cost of kindness and hospitality. However, some hosts require a stipend to cover meals provided to guests. If transportation is involved, hosts are perfectly within their rights to ask that travel costs be covered. These matters should be clarified before a guest arrives, and these and other points are specified in the host registration form.

What is not part of the SIGHT program?

SIGHT is not a SIG (special interest group), a hotel service, a job placement program, an immigration service, or permanent housing program. If a local coordinator or host cannot be found who wishes to open up his or her home when accommodation is sought, information on hotels would be appropriate. If a guest seeks help with a job search or permanent housing, directing a person to the local group newsletter or local newspaper to place an ad for such would be acceptable, as this is beyond the scope of SIGHT. Any illegal activity or request is not condoned, of course; if necessary, a host is free to notify the authorities of any wrongdoing even if the guest is from another country.

Local coordinators Q&A

What are the obligations of a coordinator or host?

There are *no obligations*! The position of SIGHT coordinator or host is entirely voluntary.

What requirements are involved?

The only requirement is a timely response, accompanied with courtesy and tact. Asking the right questions provides for the best answers, such as how many guests are expected, what transportation is requested, and so forth. Common sense and a desire to help others are wonderful traits in any local coordinator or host, as is an ability to solve problems. Above all, friendliness, information, and a desire to help others are the most important requirements.

Is a second language necessary for a coordinator or host?

The SIGHT program is usually conducted in English as a common language between nations; a second language is therefore not necessary unless agreed upon. If a host does speak a second or third language, by all means make the local coordinator aware of this ability.

Must a coordinator or host have a fax machine or computer?

Not in the least. Written requests are frequently made, and if there is no email or fax contact information, the information can be passed along via letter. Most guests realize that plans must be made well in advance, and thus requests are usually sent in good time. Often a guest will provide full addresses so that, even if the initial request came through via email, the national SIGHT coordinator can pass the information along to the local coordinator via telephone or mail. If there is a time constraint with the request, the local coordinator will contact the host for availability, responding to the guest with the host's telephone number for expediency. The guest would then telephone the host directly to confirm all arrangements.

Is a coordinator meant to be more than a liaison between guests and hosts?

The local coordinator is the person responsible for ensuring that any guest finds a host suitable to his or her needs. The local coordinator also is responsible for keeping track of the hosts' requirements for guests (no children welcome, no pets, transportation not available, etc.). The local coordinator can contribute an article to the local group newsletter occasionally to ensure that members are fully aware of the SIGHT program. If a local group has a Web site, the coordinator might consider asking the Webmaster to devote some space to the SIGHT program, member stories, and links to local events.

What is the difference between a local coordinator and a host?

Often there is little difference, as many local coordinators enjoy serving as hosts, welcoming traveling Mensans into their towns. However, the local coordinator's role is to find members to volunteer as hosts and keep their profiles on file. Hosts cannot act as official coordinators for their local group unless appointed by the national SIGHT coordinator.

What should the local coordinator do to secure hosts?

It is wise for each local coordinator to have a selection of hosts in each town or city that the local group represents; the more the merrier! A regional gathering would be an ideal time to recruit new hosts; the local coordinator can take SIGHT program details to a Mensa gathering for discussion, ask for host volunteers, and pass around sign-up sheets. Print the host registration form in the local group newsletter and see how many responses are returned. Host registration forms can also be included in mailings or new member packets. Once a host has volunteered, the local coordinator passes copies of the SIGHT forms to the host.

What else is important for a coordinator to know about the SIGHT program?

It is important to know that, above all, SIGHT is a network of Mensans looking to meet other Mensans, whether traveling to them or welcoming them to their area. One traveling guest must be a current Mensa member (numbers should be provided to local coordinators). SIGHT emphasizes clear communication between hosts and guests by encouraging consideration, helpfulness, and understanding of others' preferences and differences.

Hosts Q&A

Can a host have house rules?

If the host is volunteering his or her home, it is perfectly acceptable to have a list of house rules. It is important that any host let their local coordinator and guests know of any rules and preferences. Is smoking allowed in the house? Are pets permitted? Is there a time that is too late to return to the house, or is the host a late riser? Limitations within the house should be explained to any guest, often overseas travelers are not familiar with the electricity system, the heating units, the telephone dialing codes, and so forth. A host may want to consider putting these instructions in writing to leave with the guest, supervising the guest initially. If a guest does not abide by the rules, a reasonable alternative may be kindly suggested.

Can a host turn down a guest?

Yes, at any time if the match is not suitable. If the guest arrives and is found not to be a good match for any reason, a polite request to find another host is absolutely acceptable. The local coordinator may then find a better match based on the guest's wishes. This is a good reason to have hotel information handy.

Does the host have to take time off of work when a guest arrives?

A host only does what he or she wishes to do. Again, there are no obligations within SIGHT, although if a day off to sightsee is desirable, the host has the freedom to do this. (Remember that many foreign visitors expect convenient public transportation, so it is a good idea to illustrate any methods of getting around the town or city.) A normal routine should not be disrupted; all SIGHT activities are voluntary, and guests can be left to their own devices during the day.

International SIGHT Q&A

Who do you contact if you are traveling oversees and want to us the International SIGHT program?

Contact the US National SIGHT Coordinator who will forward you contact information for the country you wish to visit.

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, Texas 76006
tel (817) 607-0060
fax (817) 649-5232
AmericanMensa@mensa.org
www.us.mensa.org

ASIE APPENDIX

SIGHT (Service of Information, Guidance & Hospitality to Travelers)

POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR AMERICAN MENSA LTD.

NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR:

1. The AMC appoints and approves a NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR. The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR may select an ASSISTANT NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR whose name will then be submitted to the AMC for approval.

2. The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR should attempt to enlist a SIGHT Coordinator from each local American Mensa group. Local groups select and submit a candidate's name to the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR for approval and confirmation (see below for procedure). The LocSec may act as a temporary SIGHT contact for any local group that does not already have one until such time as a Coordinator is in place.

3. The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR and the National Office shall notify each other promptly as changes or updates are received and shall coordinate their lists to prepare for the Mensa Bulletin Directory Listings.

4. The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR is responsible for informing the local SIGHT Coordinators of any SIGHT contacts, updates to the program, publicity for SIGHT, and other activities associated with SIGHT. The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR also will ensure that each local SIGHT Coordinator has a complete list of American Mensa SIGHT Coordinators via the Mensa Bulletin Directory or other means. The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR will see that any new SIGHT Coordinators have a SIGHT Manual and all relevant forms and information, including the ASIEs and Appendixes associated with SIGHT. Other means of publicity are encouraged, such as web pages, shared email lists, and newsletters.

5. Members wishing to use the SIGHT program who contact the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR directly will be given the contact information of the destination SIGHT Coordinator. It is advisable to supply any Guest with general SIGHT information, including any required forms. This ensures that all parties are aware of expectations. In a continuing effort to improve the program, evaluation on the SIGHT experience is encouraged for participants.

6. A SIGHT Coordinator experiencing any problem with a Guest or Host, or a Guest or Host experiencing any problem with a SIGHT Coordinator, is encouraged to make use of the SIGHT program's Complaint Form. This form may be submitted to the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR. However, SIGHT Guests, Hosts, and Coordinators are encouraged to settle disputes locally whenever possible.

7. American Mensa encourages and supports the International SIGHT Program and works closely with the International SIGHT Coordinator. The aim of the SIGHT program is to not only bring U.S. SIGHT Coordinators together in mutual interest, but also to forge closer international unions among respective SIGHT participants.

LOCAL GROUP SIGHT COORDINATOR SELECTION PROCEDURE:

1) Each local chapter is encouraged to select a SIGHT Coordinator for their group. The LocSec or outgoing SIGHT Coordinator should discuss the position with the volunteer SIGHT Coordinator and give him or her any current printed information on the program - including a SIGHT Coordinator/Host Registration Form (of which use is encouraged), which is sent to the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR. Information on the SIGHT program will be available on the Mensa Web site, from the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR, and also from the National Office. Each LocSec should have a SIGHT Manual, which they should provide the nominee for review.

2) Each local group's selection of a SIGHT Coordinator shall be by the procedure outlined in the local group's bylaws for selection of appointed officers. For example, some groups may do this by LocSec appointment, whereas other groups may do this by LocSec appointment with ExComm approval or by other methods.

3) The LocSec, on behalf of the local group, submits the information on the SIGHT Coordinator candidate to the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR. The submission should include name, membership number, address(es), email(s), confirmation that the Mensa member is in good standing, and contact information.

4) The NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR shall contact the nominated chapter SIGHT Coordinator directly and ask for the completed SIGHT nominee information. This may be via a Registration Form, which may be emailed, printed and sent via regular mail, or faxed to the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR.

5) Selection of local SIGHT Coordinators is a joint local and national appointment. Upon review of the local group's nomination, the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR shall promptly inform the successful nominee, LocSec, and the National Office of the confirmation. The National Office shall publish the new SIGHT Coordinator's name in the next available directory issue of the Mensa Bulletin. The LocSec or Editor should announce the new SIGHT Coordinator's appointment in the local newsletter; the newsletter should continue to list the SIGHT Coordinator information in the officer listings. If the nominee is not appointed, the NATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATOR and the LocSec will work together to find a SIGHT Coordinator for the group.

6) Each SIGHT Coordinator shall maintain a list of all available Hosts in the local group. This list should indicate name, location, availability of public transportation if any, smoking or non-smoking preference, any pets in the home, and other pertinent items that might affect a particular Host-Guest matching. The SIGHT Coordinator is not required to serve as a SIGHT Host.

7) A local SIGHT Coordinator may enlist the volunteer efforts of SIGHT Hosts within a chapter, via publicizing SIGHT at local meetings, articles in the newsletter, mailings, etc. SIGHT Host names and pertinent information should be kept by the local SIGHT Coordinator for help as required. Some SIGHT Coordinators, as an example, may not wish to have Guests in their homes, and may secure one or more Hosts who will volunteer accommodations.

Suggestions for SIGHT Hosts

Why not be fully prepared when a guest comes to visit? If you compile a version of your personal sightseeing favorites, you can simply pass this information along to the guest in advance.

Here is a list of ideas you could gather about your area, but you can add plenty of your own:

- Hotel information - location, proximity to events, cost range, etc.
- Transportation - distances from airport to your home or event
- Restaurants - type of cuisine, approximate costs, style (casual, tie, etc.)
- Airport, train, bus, coach, taxi, rental car agency information
- Tourist attractions and events
- Local group Mensa Web site address
- Local group activities and calendar of events
- List of local group officers
- Personal testimonials
- Maps
- Tourist information contact numbers (tourist office, chamber of commerce, etc.)

Call your local chamber of commerce and/or tourist information center, and they will be glad to send you a package of information to use and tailor to your needs. They will also send a package directly to a guest.

Get creative and let others know of your own ideas!

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

Guest Instructions

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT)

1. Complete the **Guest Registration Form**, and send it to the SIGHT Coordinator(s) well in advance of your trip.

2. Send the following with your registration form or separately in advance of your visit:
   - Proof of current Mensa membership
   - Special requirements (dietary concerns, allergies, transportation required, etc.)
   - Age range of visiting guests

3. The Coordinator will supply you with a list of one or more Hosts. Once you have received this list, contact the Hosts directly confirming the above information. Include stamps or international travel coupons (available from your postal facility) if return mail is expected from the Hosts.

4. Agree in advance if there is any payment required before committing to a Host.

5. Inform your Hosts if there are any changes in your travel plans or additions to your list of visiting guests.

6. Treat your Host homes and families with respect and courtesy; they are going out of their way to help you in your travels.

7. Consider bringing a small thank you gift for your Hosts, or reciprocate taking your Host(s) out for a meal.

8. Do not outstay your welcome! Most Hosts welcome guests for only a few days.

9. Remember that your Hosts may work during the day. Plan to take care of activities yourself so that you don't disrupt schedules unnecessarily.

10. Enjoy your trip!

11. After your travels, complete the Guest Evaluation Form provided by your Host, and send it to the American Mensa's National SIGHT Coordinator. The evaluation form is also available on the American Mensa Web site (www.us.mensa.org) under the Member Resources section.

12. Consider becoming a SIGHT Coordinator or a Host in your area! Contact your local or National SIGHT Coordinator.

Bob Cox
National SIGHT Coordinator
5255 E Spring Road
Hereford, AZ 85615 USA
(520) 378-0773 SIGHT@us.mensa.org

Thank you for your interest in SIGHT!
We hope that you find the program a rewarding part of your membership in Mensa.

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

Guest Registration Form

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT)

Full Name	Mensa Membership Number

Mailing address

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country

Telephone *(include area code and country code whenever applicable)*	Email Address

Mensa Region/Group *(or National Mensa whenever applicable)*

Travel Dates	Interests/Hobbies

(Please type or print clearly. See instructions for form submission below.)

Do you …
- ❑ …smoke?
- ❑ …have pets accompanying you?
- ❑ …have children accompanying you?
- ❑ …speak any languages other than English?
  (If yes, please specify)

_____

Are you bothered by …
- ❑ …smoking?
- ❑ …pets?
- ❑ …children?
- ❑ …other?
  (If yes, please specify)

_____

What kind of hospitality do you seek in a potential host?
- ❑ Mensa activities
- ❑ assistance with sightseeing
- ❑ accommodation for ____ people for ____ days maximum
- ❑ meals
- ❑ transportation
- ❑ impromptu Mensa open house
- ❑ other — please explain: _____

Are you willing to pay for any services?
- ❑ meals
- ❑ transportation
- ❑ accommodations

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please note that guest and host expectations vary, depending on location and culture. Remember that courtesy, friendliness, and respect for your host and any house rules will make your visit mutually enjoyable.

Additional comments:

You may submit this form electronically by visiting the American Mensa Web site (www.us.mensa.org) and following the link for SIGHT under the Member Resources section.

Otherwise, please print and complete this form, and mail it to:

the Local Group SIGHT coordinator of the group you are visiting
(this can be located in the September or March issue of the *Mensa Bulletin*)

Thank you for your interest in SIGHT! We hope that you find the program a rewarding part of your membership in Mensa.

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

Host Registration Form

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT)

Full Name | **Mensa Membership Number**

Mailing address

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country

Telephone *(include area code and country code whenever applicable)* | **Email Address**

Mensa Region/Group *(or National Mensa whenever applicable)*

Nearby Public Transportation | **Interests/Hobbies**

Nearby Places of Interest

(Please type or print clearly. See instructions for form submission below.)

Do you …
- ❑ …smoke?
- ❑ …have pets in or around your home?
- ❑ …have children living with you?
- ❑ …speak any languages other than English?

(If yes, please specify) _____

Are you bothered by …
- ❑ …smoking?
- ❑ …pets?
- ❑ …children?
- ❑ …other?

(If yes, please specify) _____

What kind of hospitality do wish to provide potential guests?
- ❑ Mensa activities
- ❑ assistance with sightseeing
- ❑ accommodation for ____ people for ____ days maximum
- ❑ meals
- ❑ transportation
- ❑ impromptu Mensa open house
- ❑ other — please explain: _____

Do you request some reimbursement for …
- ❑ …meals?
- ❑ …transportation?
- ❑ …accommodations?

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please note that guest and host expectations vary, depending on location and culture. Remember that courtesy, friendliness, and respect for your guest will make the visit mutually enjoyable.

Additional comments:

You may submit this form electronically by visiting the American Mensa Web site (www.us.mensa.org) and following the link for SIGHT under the Member Resources section.

Otherwise, please print and complete this form, and mail it to:

the SIGHT coordinator of your local group

Thank you for your interest in SIGHT! We hope that you find the program a rewarding part of your membership in Mensa.

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

Guest Evaluation Form

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT)

Full Name	Mensa Membership Number

Mailing address

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country

Telephone *(include area code and country code whenever applicable)*	Email Address

Mensa Region/Group *(or National Mensa whenever applicable)*

Dates Hosted	Host's Home City/State/Province/Country

Name of your Host

(Please type or print clearly. See instructions for form submission below.)

What kind of hospitality did you seek in a potential host?

- ❑ Mensa activities
- ❑ assistance with sightseeing
- ❑ accommodation for ____ people for ____ days maximum
- ❑ meals
- ❑ transportation
- ❑ impromptu Mensa open house
- ❑ other — please explain: _____

Was reimbursement required for any services?

❑ meals ❑ transportation ❑ accommodations

Was your host …

- ❑ …courteous?
- ❑ …friendly?
- ❑ …ready to explain any house rules or requirements?
- ❑ …clean and tidy in provided accommodations? (if applicable)
- ❑ …prompt in responding to your inquiries?

Would you visit this host again?

❑ YES ❑ NO

Would you visit other hosts again?

❑ YES ❑ NO

How many times have you used SIGHT this year, including this time? _____ times

Additional comments:

You may submit this form electronically by visiting the American Mensa Web site (www.us.mensa.org) and following the link for SIGHT under the Member Resources section.

Otherwise, please print and complete this form, and mail it to:

Bob Cox, National SIGHT Coordinator
5255 E Spring Road, Hereford, AZ 85615, USA
(520) 378-0773 SIGHT@us.mensa.org

and

the SIGHT Coordinator of your local group

Thank you for your interest in SIGHT!
We hope that you find the program a rewarding part of your membership in Mensa.

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

Host Evaluation Form

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT)

Full Name	Mensa Membership Number

Mailing address

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country

Telephone *(include area code and country code whenever applicable)*	Email Address

Mensa Region/Group *(or National Mensa whenever applicable)*

Hosting Dates	Guests Home City/State or Province/Country

Names of your Guests

(Please type or print clearly. See instructions for form submission below.)

What kind of hospitality did you offer your guests?

- ❑ Mensa activities
- ❑ assistance with sightseeing
- ❑ accommodation for ____ people for ____ days maximum
- ❑ meals
- ❑ transportation
- ❑ impromptu Mensa open house

❑ other — please explain: _____

Do you request some reimbursement for …
❑ …meals? ❑ …transportation? ❑ …accommodations?

Were your guests …

- ❑ …courteous?
- ❑ …friendly?
- ❑ …understanding of any house rules you set?
- ❑ …tidy? (if applicable)
- ❑ …respectful of your home/property? (if applicable)

Would you host these guests again?
❑ YES ❑ NO

Would you host others again?
❑ YES ❑ NO

How many times have you acted as a SIGHT host this year, including this time? _____ times

Additional comments:

You may submit this form electronically by visiting the American Mensa Web site (www.us.mensa.org) and following the link for SIGHT under the Member Resources section.

Otherwise, please print and complete this form, and mail it to:
Bob Cox, National SIGHT Coordinator
5255 E Spring Road, Hereford, AZ 85615, USA
(520) 378-0773 SIGHT@us.mensa.org

Thank you for your interest in SIGHT!
We hope that you find the program a rewarding part of your membership in Mensa.

AMERICAN mensa LTD.

Incident Report

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT)

I experienced a problem with the following SIGHT participant and wish to register the information as follows:

❑ I was the SIGHT Host ❑ I was a SIGHT Guest

Date of Incident

My Information

Full Name | **Mensa Membership Number**

Mailing address

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country

Telephone *(include area code and country code whenever applicable)* | **Email Address**

I am registering the following individual and incident.

Full Name | **Mensa Membership Number**

Mailing address

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country

Telephone *(include area code and country code whenever applicable)* | **Email Address**

(Please type or print clearly. See instructions for form submission below.)

Description of Incident:

Continue on separate sheet if needed.

Signed: Date:

Bob Cox, American Mensa National SIGHT Coordinator
5255 E Spring Road, Hereford, AZ 85615,USA (520) 378-0773 SIGHT@us.mensa.org

SAMPLE ARTICLES

Written by Marsh Norris, San Francisco Regional Mensa SIGHT coordinator:

SIGHT (Service of Information, Guidance & Hospitality to Travelers)

Most of us joined Mensa to meet and mix with other Mensans. Being a SIGHT host provides an additional, wonderful opportunity to do more of just that, and it's a chance to meet interesting people from all over the world.

SIGHT is set up to assist travelers on short visits to our area. Our area is very popular, and Mensans visiting here need information about places to stay, points of interest, and local Mensa events. You've traveled and you know what it's like to visit an unfamiliar area.

If you can answer an email, talk on the phone, or respond to a letter, you can be a SIGHT host. It's a real help if you're also the kind of person who can pick the traveler up at the airport, if you can provide accommodations, or if you can take them sightseeing.

All of this is purely voluntary. Hosts can specify the kinds of guests they're willing to accept and can reject smokers, pets, children, or whatever their house rules call for. SIGHT hosts are not obliged to take a guest or to put up with bad behavior, and they can ask for a stipend to help defray guests' costs.

How can you use SIGHT? Just contact sight@us.mensa.org when you're ready to travel, and you will receive information on the SIGHT coordinator at your destination. Fill out the Guest Form online and your SIGHT coordinator can find you the best match.

To become a SIGHT host, please complete the form or provide the information to me at (_____fill in local SIGHT coordinator email address or tel. number_____).

[This article was submitted to SFRM's newsletter and redistributed to other regional newsletters in August 2001.]

An Invitation from Florida, USA

Dear Fellow Mensans,

I'm the LocSec of Manasota Mensa, on Florida's Gulf Coast. We'd like to invite you to take advantage of our local SIGHT program.

We are a group of friendly Mensans who would welcome your visit. We can give you information about our area, invite you to our group activities, and sometimes even let you spend a night or two in our spare bedrooms.

Besides our world-famous sugar sand beaches, we've earned the nickname "Florida's Cultural Coast" with our art galleries, museums, operas and concerts, theater, dance, jazz, and bookstores. We have several historical and natural attractions and lots of special events.

The major events tend to run from October through April. They include arts, film, music and food festivals; magnificent holiday light displays; Medieval, Greek, Italian and Scottish fairs; circuses; plastic bottle boat regattas; craft fairs; and more.

If you're thinking of coming our way, please contact our SIGHT coordinator, _____, and give us the chance to share our little corner of paradise with you.

[This article appeared in the January 2001 issue of the International Journal. Reprinted here with permission of Ruth Danielle, LocSec, Manasota Mensa.]



SIGHT: Where do you want to go?

by Tanya C. Hsu

As Mensans, we can travel anywhere we want to in our minds, but how about quite literally travelling the world with Mensa? Do you know about the terrific member-benefit program called SIGHT, which is free to every dues-paying Mensan? SIGHT (Service of Information, Guidance, Hospitality and Travel) is for Mensans meeting Mensans, connecting people from around the world with fellow members at no charge!



Michal Turecek and Lucie Horakova (Czech Republic) with New York City SIGHT Coordinator Marghretta McBean (center).

As a SIGHT guest, you can call upon a SIGHT host in Paris to guide you on the Metro, rest upon a bamboo mat in Thailand, shop for bargains in Hong Kong, or spot penguins in Melbourne.

As a SIGHT host, you might collect a Russian from the airport, translate for a Spaniard, toss out a rollaway for a Belgian, or show a Hungarian the tourist sights. Do you think you have to provide overnight accommodations for visiting Mensans? Not so! Many people have now joined SIGHT because it is clear that they can set their own limits.

Just this year, SIGHT hosts in the U.S. have hosted Mensans from Bangladesh, Holland, Poland, New Zealand, Australia, Bulgaria, South Africa, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Singapore, Romania, Malaysia, Denmark, Peru, Finland, Hungary, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Sweden, Macedonia and more.

How do you use SIGHT? Simple! Just contact us when you are ready to travel, and we will connect you with the SIGHT coordinator in your intended destination. Fill out our guest form online, and your SIGHT host can find the best match for you depending upon your requirements. If you wish to volunteer as a SIGHT host, contact me, fill out the online form, or call on your group SIGHT coordinator and ask for the host registration form.

Join us.... we're having a great time!

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Lee Larrew, Coastal South Carolina SIGHT coordinator, in Sydney, Australia.

The word from SIGHT coordinators and hosts around the world

As a SIGHT co-coordinator in India for more than three decades, I've hosted over a dozen travellers. I've had Mensans from the U.S., Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, etc., stay with us, and I've also had lunch/dinner with Mensans from France, Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Bangladesh, etc. This has been a rewarding experience. — **Amit Das, Calcutta, India**

One hosting experience I had was with a couple from Canada. There were going from Canada to Arizona, using SIGHT along the way. They were undemanding, courteous, and some of the best house guests I'd ever had. I consider SIGHT to be one of the better Mensa programs available to all Mensa. — **Sandy Halby, Colorado Springs, Colo.**

I've been the Metropolitan Washington Mensa SIGHT coordinator for almost 25 years. I will probably keep the job unless someone arm wrestles me for it! — **Rosemary Kooiman, Washington D.C.**

I've enjoyed hosting people from England, New York, Texas, Los Angeles, Israel and Cleveland. I've used SIGHT in Canada with a fun, gracious family in Montreal. It was a great cost-saving measure because the hotels were booked solid! — **Joanne Landfair, Phoenix, Ariz.**

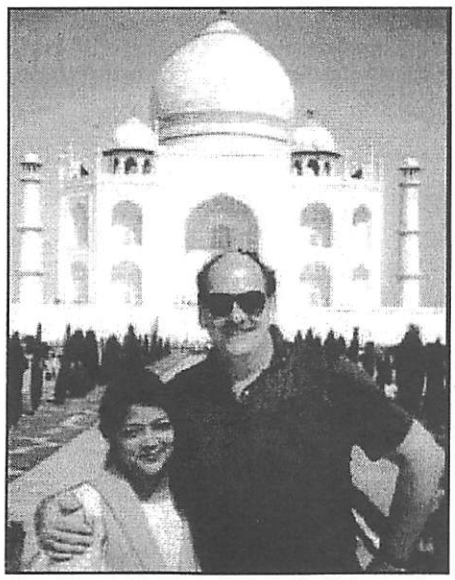
I have hosted Mensa guests from six states and several countries. I would not hesitate to have any of the prior guests return for a visit. I really do enjoy showing visitors my island home. Anyone care to visit Hawaii? — **Mike Last, Naalehu, Hawaii**

Six years ago, my husband and I traveled to Poland to find the villages where my grandparents were born. I contacted the SIGHT chair in Poland. The whole trip was a most memorable experience, thanks in no small part to SIGHT. — **Mabel Loesch, Pensacola, Fla.**

When our local SIGHT coordinator asked for someone to "host" a dog for some Mensans, I volunteered. Schooner stayed for the weekend. If you have a fenced yard and like dogs, hosting a Mensa pet is a great way to help someone out while supporting the SIGHT program. I recommend it! — **Helen Lee Moore, Cocoa, Fla.**

My best experience as a SIGHT host was when a fellow traveling to the National Storytellers Convention called. I said he was most welcome if he would agree to spin some tales around the fireplace. The evening was truly magical, listening to this spinner of the lost art. — **Ralph Rudolph, Center Valley, Pa.**

It was interesting to be elected as SIGHT officer. Being SIGHT officer is, of course, by far the most interesting and coolest Mensa office to host. — **Wolf Schweitzer, Switzerland**



Kent Aldersof with Krishna Roy at the Taj Mahal in India.

I've been a SIGHT coordinator since 1983, and I love meeting other Earthlings! My friends envy me for receiving mail from Bermuda, Bulgaria, Hungary, the U.S., Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and South Africa. — **Sariputra Sumana, Jakarta, Indonesia**

I run a mini bed and breakfast in my home here in New Orleans. I have never mentioned anything about money, but the first one insisted: she said that simply by using the local buses, she saved so much money, she sent me all the daily taxi fares! — **Elizabeth Wilcox, New Orleans, La.**

My husband and I let a Mensa lady use our driveway to park her travel trailer for two nights. She taught me a new card game, and I beat her three out of three. She gave us a small thank-you gift, which was unexpected and welcome. — **Andrea Williams, Redding, Calif.**