ESTA – Electronic System for Travel Authorization:

International travelers who are seeking to travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) are now subject to enhanced security requirements and will be required to pay an administrative fee. All eligible travelers who wish to travel to the US under the VWP must apply for authorization and then pay a fee after submitting the application. The fee must be paid by MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover.

ESTA Website: https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/

To Apply for Authorization:

1. _____ Is the foreign visitor traveling with a valid passport lawfully issued from a country on the VWP list?
   If yes, which country _________________________________________
   (Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Malta, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.)

2. _____ Not in possession of a visitor’s visa.

3. _____ Travel must be for 90 days or less.

4. _____ Travel to the US is for business, pleasure or transit.

5. _____ Have authorization to travel via ESTA.

6. _____ Have a return or onward ticket.

7. _____ Will arrive in the United States aboard a VWP signatory air carrier.
8. _____ Foreign visitor’s passport meets State Department machine-readable and biometric regulations?

- The passport must have a machine-readable zone.
  - October 26, 2005 – Each Visa Waiver Program passport issued on or after this date must have a digital photo.
  - October 26, 2006 – Each Visa Waiver Program passport issued on or after this date must be an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner.

- Exceptions:
  - To be eligible for the Visa Waiver Program, persons presenting United Kingdom passports must possess the unrestricted right of permanent abode in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.
  - Citizens and nationals of Slovenia may use only the red cover Slovenian passport for admission under the Visa Waiver Program (Visa Waiver Program).
  - Effective July 1, 2009, Visa Waiver Program countries’ emergency or temporary passports must be electronic passports.

- Citizens of the following Visa Waiver Program countries are required to present electronic passports: Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Malta, South Korea, and Greece.

- Citizens from Visa Waiver Program eligible countries other than Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Malta, South Korea, and Greece must present a machine-readable passport. A machine readable passport contains two lines of text with numbers and chevrons (<<<) at the bottom of the personal information page with the passport bearer's picture. Document requirements vary according to the date a passport was issued or renewed as follows:
  - Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended before 10/26/05 have no additional requirements.
  - If a passport was issued or renewed/extended on or after 10/26/05 and does not meet the following requirements, the traveler must obtain a visa:
    - Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended on or after 10/26/05 through 10/25/06 must meet the following requirements. A digital photograph printed on the passport data page is required OR an integrated chip containing information from the data page (e-passport). A digital photo is one that is printed on the page, not a photo that is glued or laminated into the passport.
    - Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended on or after 10/26/06 are required to be e-passports.