

Why become a high school exchange student?



Rotary Youth Exchange is a program that provides students with the opportunity to study abroad—while experiencing another culture; learning a new language; and becoming a global citizen. Students must be 15 and cannot be older than 18.5 on August 1 of the year of departure. Non-Rotarians and children of Rotarians are encouraged to apply. By sponsoring inbound and outbound exchange students, Rotary clubs strive to build peace, one young person at a time. Here are just a few reasons why students participate:

- Experience another culture.
- Make lifelong connections and friendships.
- Gain an understanding of other perspectives.
- Become fluent in another language.
- Stand out on college applications.
- Rotary Exchange offers a fun, yet safe way to travel and immerse yourself in another country.
- Helps to build lifelong skills in leadership, understanding of other perspectives, and the ability to adapt to new environments.

A Rotary club that sponsors students from its community—to go abroad, also, hosts students in exchange. Many parents of outbound students will host an exchange student for a part of the year and help the Rotary club identify other host families that will be approved by the club.

What are the two types of exchanges?

- **Long-term exchanges** last a full academic year. Students live with more than one family in the host country and attend school, there.
- **Short-term exchanges** last from several days to three months. They are often structured as youth camps, tours, or homestays that take place when school is not in session.

Who is eligible for the long-term exchange program?

- High school students of good character, warm personality and average to above-average academic performance.
- Candidates should be adaptable and flexible, well mannered, and want to learn about other countries and cultures.

Find out if long-term exchange is for you?

- Can you commit to being away from home for a year?
- Are you comfortable learning a language?
- Are you okay living with a different family?

Meet Rotary Partners: ESSEX and NAYEN



Rotary District 7610 overseas most of Northern Virginia. It coordinates Rotary Youth Exchanges with: The U.S. Dept. of State; Rotary International; The Eastern States Student Exchange; and the North American Youth Exchange Network (NAYEN).

What is the Eastern States Student Exchange (ESSEX)?

ESSEX is a consortium of Rotary districts (a group of Rotary clubs in a geographic region)—that organizes Rotary Youth Exchange programs. ESSEX supports long-term and short-term exchanges in sixteen states in the eastern United States, Bermuda, Quebec, Canada. ESSEX serves as a resource for outbound and inbound students; host families; and hundreds of volunteers—at the district and club level.

What is the North American Youth Exchange Network (NAYEN)?

NAYEN facilitates collaboration and provide support to Rotary Districts and Multi-Districts in: the U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico—to promote Rotary Youth Exchanges—around the world.

(More information on other side)

Which Countries?

The countries can change, based on safety, health, and travel guidelines and restrictions. Students select their top country choices when applying. **Students should be prepared for alternative choices, as well. Flexibility is a must!**

Czech Republic	Hungary
Poland	Rumania
Slovakia	Bosnia
Croatia	Italy
Spain	Estonia
Denmark	Finland
Iceland	Norway
Sweden	Austria
Belgium	France
Germany	Latvia
Netherlands	Switzerland
India	Indonesia
Japan	South Korea
Taiwan	Thailand
Turkey	Argentina
'Bolivia	Brazil
Chile	Columbia
Ecuador	Paraguay
Peru	South Africa
Australia	Canada
Mexico	



What are the Requirements?

- Age: 15 through 18 (cannot be older than 18 ½ -- by Aug. 1st of departure year).
- Must have a valid passport.
- Attend school in your host country.
- Willingness to serve as a positive example for your country.
- Participate in mandatory orientation session, prior to leaving.
- Must have a COVID Vaccination.

What are some of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)?

Are educational credits transferable?

Some U.S. high schools do accept credits. However, it depends on your school system and the school you will attend, while abroad. To get credit, you MUST make arrangements with your local school principal, prior to your departure.

Do I have to speak a foreign language to be accepted?

It depends on the country you select. The program is cultural and academic in nature and lasts an academic year. This means that students are required to attend the local high school, which usually teaches in the foreign language. The need for a working knowledge or proficiency in the language varies depending on the country. Knowing as much as possible of the language upon arrival in your host country is essential.

Why are Rotary's student exchange programs better than other programs—and is it safe?

Rotary volunteers screen student applicants; select exchange students; prepare them; and arrange hosting abroad; travel, insurance; school admission; visas; etc. All of this is done by Rotarians as an unpaid service.

Statement of Conduct For Working with Youth

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth, who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Health Safety: ESSEX Exchange COVID Vaccine Policy for 2022-23:

Applies to all Short-Term and Long-Term Students, Host Families, (including age eligible family members and Youth Exchange Volunteers). In order to participate in the ESSEX program, ESSEX requires you to provide proof of a COVID vaccine--effective July 15, 2021, until further notice. ESSEX and Rotary closely monitor what is happening in the regions of the countries in which it exchanges. All host families must go through an extensive background check process--to ensure safety. Rotarians who serve as counselors also must participate in the background check process. Rotary also complies with U.S. State Department regulations for exchange.

Diversity in Student Selection:

Because cultural norms and local laws differ around the world on these kinds of issues, adequate care shall be taken to make sure that all parties involved approve of and are comfortable with the hosting arrangement.

Rotary District 7610 Primary Contacts:

Rotary District 7610 Youth Exchange Chair: Roya Khan

E-mail: sidiqueaw@gmail.com

Cell: (571) 344-8848

&/or

District 7610 Youth Exchange

Senior Advisor: Phil Rusciolelli

E-mail: pbrusciolelli@aol.com

Cell: (703) 431-3859

(More information on other side)