

Rotary
District 5030



Youth
Exchange
Program

**TRAVEL.
DISCOVERY.
FUN.**



Rotary Short-Term Youth Exchange

- High school student summer international exchange program
- Spend 3-4 weeks overseas with a family that has a son or daughter the same age that will also spend 3-4 weeks in the US with your family
- Travel order and schedules dependent on each students' schedule
- Exchange typically occurs between mid-June to end of August
- Program oversight by Rotary to ensure safety, quality, and equity

Student & Family Eligibility

- High school students ages 15-18
- Students possess qualities such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things that will enable you to fully experience life in another country and be an excellent cultural ambassador
- Families open to hosting overseas sibling for 3-4 weeks during summer
- Application process completion

The Process

- **Sept 1-Oct 15:** Information meetings for families
- **Oct 30:** Student applications due to sponsor Rotary Club
- **Nov 30:** Club level interviews and host family screening completed by sponsor Rotary Club
- **Dec 1-15:** District level interviews
- **Jan:** Matching process with foreign districts begins
- **Feb-Apr:** Matches are assigned
- **May:** Outbound student and host family orientation
- **Jun 15-Aug 30:** Exchanges take place with 3-4 weeks in each country

"It was one of the best experiences of my life. I grew my language skills, made new friends, saw the world, and had an impactful new experience for my college applications."

Zach, Rotary Exchange Student

Web
rotaryyouth5030.org

YouTube
shorturl.at/zHO03

ROTARY SHORT-TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is Rotary?

A: Rotary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary Club members are business, professional, and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. More than 33,000 clubs conduct projects to address today's challenges including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns.

Q: Why should I consider the Rotary program for summer-time exchange?

A: Rotary is an international not-for-profit organization with a 75-year track record of successful youth exchange activities. Rotary ensures that the students and families are well prepared for their exchange experience. Applications, reference, and background checks ensure the safety for everyone involved. Your local Rotary District provides a Youth Exchange Counselor to your family for questions and support before, during, and after the exchange experience.

Q: What country would I go to for exchange?

A: Rotary District 5030 (Greater Seattle Area) exchanges with many different countries around the world. The country list changes each year and we believe all of our partner countries offer excellent opportunities for a successful exchange.

Q: What are some of the benefits of doing a Rotary Short-Term Exchange?

A: Student benefits include language skills, international exposure, cultural immersion, ambassador experience, and a very unique experience to highlight in college applications. Family benefits include memory making, host family bonding, world experience, and facilitating the growth of youth minds through positive cultural exchange.

Q: What will the student's time on exchange be like?

A: After the student is selected for exchange and paired with a family overseas, the families typically meet virtually using Zoom or FaceTime to get to know each other. When the first student travels to their host family, that student becomes apart of that family for the duration of the exchange. Families are encouraged to have a typical summer doing what they normally would do, and to include their exchange student in everything - grocery shopping, family activities, vacation time, chores around the house, and spending time with school friends. At the end of the first exchange period, both students will travel back to the first student's home country where the second student will not be apart of their overseas host family and their summertime activities.

Q: What can I do to prepare for my exchange experience?

A: For both students and families, it is encouraged to research your exchange country to familiarize yourself with their culture, history, and traditions. During the exchanges, both students and families will be exposed to new things. It is important to have a flexible attitude with exchange and a willingness to try new things. Cultural exchange programs are wonderful ways to learn more about the world and to broaden your own perspectives through new experiences.

"Our son learned a lot about a different culture, and himself, during his time overseas. Hosting Simon as own exchange-son was wonderful. We created some beautiful family memories."

Christine & Ken M., Host Family

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