

Dear ,

We are pleased that you have been selected to be our guest for the coming school year and expect it to be one of the most exciting years of your life. Your host Rotary Club (listed above) will make every effort to assure your success. We suggest that you contact, as soon as possible, the club Youth Exchange Officer and tell him or her about your travel plans (date, carrier, time of arrival, flight number, etc.) to the destination airport (which is also identified above). It is your responsibility to arrange your tickets to this destination airport. Upon arrival, Rotarians from your host Rotary club will meet you.

**GENERAL INFORMATION** - Each year we welcome high school students who spend one year living with Rotary or Rotary-approved families while attending secondary schools and participating in all aspects of the North American life. These students come from districts in Europe, South and Central America, Australia, and Asia. You have been chosen as a student to participate in this program because you are of above average ability, you are able to make friends easily, and are willing to face challenges and to adjust to a wide variety of people under varying conditions. We are hopeful that you will take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate your personality and your spirit of helpfulness in the home, community, and in the school. We generally will expect you to adapt yourself to our culture and habits; we do not think that they are better than your country's, they are just different. It is the purpose of our program to have you become acquainted with our way of life and to help us understand yours. We will do everything in our power to make this year agreeable and profitable for you and hope that you will enjoy your stay with us.

**DRIVING AUTOMOBILES** - You are not allowed to drive a motor vehicle while on this exchange. This is *FINAL* and cannot be changed even with parental consent. The high rate of damage claims can be ruinous to all parties concerned. If you are guilty of violating this rule, you will be returned to your home country immediately.

**ORIENTATION** - On a weekend in early to mid September, a "District 5060 Inbound Orientation" is held which is **mandatory** for all Inbound students. The registration cost and transportation of this orientation is paid for by the Inbound student's hosting club. This weekend is critical for the successful completion of the exchange year.

**FINANCES** - Each student must bring \$500 (U.S. or Canadian), which is to be placed in a savings account for emergency use only. Your host Rotary Club will furnish you with a minimum of one hundred dollars (\$100) a month allowance plus paying any school registration fees. Extracurricular fees (such as for sports) may be at the student's expense. Although the club allowance is not a generous one, it corresponds approximately to that given to your North American brothers and sisters of the same age. If you need additional money over and above the allowance, you may bring more or have it sent to you by your parents. However, the District does not encourage students to have large amounts of money to spend. **Year end Bus Trip**, which follows the District Conference is a highly recommended trip which will cost \$500-\$600 to be paid for by the student, so please plan for this expense.

**INSURANCE** - Before getting this Guarantee Form/Information packet, you were required to purchase a health and accident insurance policy through CISI-Bolduc that will cover you during the time you are in North America. You are required to keep your insurance with you at all times in case of an emergency or accident.

**SCHOOLING** - You are to attend school faithfully and to maintain satisfactory grades. You may find our school system very different from yours. School hours are generally from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. When a starting time is specified for school or any other event in North America, that means that you must be there at that time. We believe that regular attendance at school will help you understand us better, and it will help you make many friends of your own age.

**LANGUAGE** - You are to make every effort to learn our language as soon as possible, since the benefits you will receive from your stay and especially from your school will depend largely on your knowledge of the English language. Advanced knowledge of English is not a requirement, but it is absolutely essential that you make an outstanding effort to overcome the language barrier as rapidly as you can. Most students will make the breakthrough in the use of English between six weeks to two months.

**EXTENDED STAY** - You are here for one school year. Please do not seek to extend your stay beyond the 12 months allowed. Students (except those from Australia) usually come to us in August of each year. Our normal school year starts in late August/early September, and concludes about June 12<sup>th</sup> (USA) and June 30 (Canada). You should depart 1 to 2 weeks after the end of the school year.

**ADMINISTRATION** - The Rotary Student Exchange Program is administered on a District-to-District level, but you are assigned to one Rotary Club for the full school year. Within the Rotary Club, there will be a Club Youth Exchange Chairperson and Counselor. Find out who these Rotarians are so that if you have any problems, you can seek their help. It must be constantly remembered that you are not the guest of a specific Rotary or Rotary-approved family, but you are the guest of the Rotary Club as a whole.

**FAMILY LIFE** - You will stay with three or four different Rotary or Rotary-approved families. You will be a guest in our homes, however, your North American parents will enjoy you more if you become part of the family and assume household duties that are normal to a child of your age—even when it is not specifically requested. Few North Americans have servants in their homes and therefore, each youth exchange student is expected to make his or her bed, keep the bedroom tidy, help prepare the meals, do the dishes, and take care of his or her laundry. You may be offered the opportunity to do such things as mow the lawn, wash the automobile, etc. Your host family is responsible for you socially, spiritually, and physically. A discussion should be held with each of your host families concerning curfew hours, travel arrangements, and dating requirements.

**SEVIS I-901 Fee:** All students applying for a **J-1 Visa** to study in the United States must now pay a US\$200 fee to SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitors Information System) at least 3 days before their “visa interview” at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. This can be accomplished several ways, but it appears that the most convenient would be to apply & pay “on-line.” You must first have your DS-2019. Payment can be made by several major credit cards. The website to use is: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/>

Once completed and paid for, a receipt will be mailed. However, a receipt can be printed directly from the website at the completion of the on-line transaction and is valid as the proof of payment, which must accompany the DS-2019 that, in turn, must be presented when applying for the visa.

District 5060 does not pay this fee. It is the responsibility of the applicant to pay this fee, although an outside party, such as the “sponsoring” YE District can choose to pay the fee initially to facilitate visa processing, then seek reimbursement from the candidate or their club at a later date.

The above website also provides links to frequently asked questions (FAQ) and other possibly helpful information.

**COST OF THE PROGRAM** - It is understood that your parents will pay the cost of all transportation including that for passport and visa. They will also pay for the cost of clothing and pay the cost of any extra travels that you may undertake.

**STUDENT TRAVEL/FAMILY VISITATIONS WHILE IN NORTH AMERICA** - Traveling in company with any Rotary or Rotary-approved family is encouraged. Non-Rotary supervised travel is generally not approved, either for pleasure or to visit family/friends in other parts of

North America. Any exceptions must conform to strict District rules which include written permission from your host club youth exchange officer, the District 5060 Youth Exchange Chairperson, your parents, and the Rotary Club/District officer in your sponsoring country.

District 5060 Guidelines sent to your sponsoring Youth Exchange District Chair provide that —“Inbound students are **not** permitted Rotarian/host family-**unaccompanied** travel outside their host city **before/during/after** their exchange year. They will travel from and return to their home country by the most direct routes. Inbound students will **not** be permitted to travel to their home country and return to their host city during their exchange year. **Family visitations require pre-approval by the District 5060 YE Chair, Hosting Club Youth Exchange Officer, and Host Family, and in no case before March 15th of their exchange year.** Violations will result in the termination of the exchange. Exceptions for some of these issues will only be considered in the event of “family emergencies.”

**THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU** - Bring only the minimum needs for clothing that you can carry in two suitcases. Do not bring large trunks for they are too difficult to transport and handle. Do bring some nice items of clothing for civic and Rotary events. Bring some color photographs or jpegs of your home, your community, and your family, which might help you to illustrate the speeches that you make at schools, Rotary Clubs, and elsewhere. If you have a special talent or ability, I am sure that you will find an appreciative audience in the United States and Canada, for it will help people know and understand you and your country better.

**DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL** - Remember that you are here as an ambassador from your country and that you are under the direct guardianship of Rotary. Even a minor breach of good behavior may diminish the success of your mission. The good names of your country and of Rotary are too valuable to allow any person under Rotary sponsorship to carry on in a manner unbecoming to a person selected as an ambassador of good will. This principle is to be accepted by sponsoring Rotary Clubs and parents alike, as well as being agreed to by you, the student. District rules require that you do not become romantically involved during your stay. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is generally NOT legal under the age of 21 in this section of North America. Any student involved with drugs will be sent home immediately.

**TRAVELING TO NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT** - District 5060 **requires that you arrive with an open return ticket to your home country. This must be purchased before traveling to the U.S. or Canada.** Rotary does not approve of your breaking the journey from your home to your host Rotary Club. Such delays in traveling to your destination are discourteous to your host Rotary Club and to your host family. Whenever possible, you should travel with other students of your country that are coming to North America. When it is necessary for you to make a change of airplane flight at such points of entry to North America as Montreal, Toronto, New York, Miami, San Francisco, etc., please be informed that there will NOT be a Rotarian at the airport to meet you. It will be necessary for you to call upon the help and the services of the airline with which you have tickets. If you do not know our language, the airline can frequently furnish you with an interpreter. It will be up to you to make your own flight travel arrangements to the point of destination specified on this form.

**GENERAL REMARKS** - Some of the above rules and regulations may seem somewhat severe, but we believe that it is better that we understand each other at the beginning. These same measures are enforced for North American students staying in your country as Rotary exchange students. We are most happy to welcome you to North America and we hope you have an experience that you will remember with much pleasure for the rest of your life.

Sincerely,  
Bill Gilmore, Inbound Coordinator