

# Youth Exchange District Events

(For dates and locations go to [Event Calendar](#))

## **Inbound Student and Youth Exchange Officer Training Weekend**

### **What happens**

This orientation session is to help the new Inbound Youth Exchange Students become familiar with the country, customs, Rotary Standards of Conduct and to ensure they have the information and resources needed to have a great year. Separate training sessions for Rotarians working with the Youth Exchange Program are provided. Attendance at the training sessions is mandatory for all inbound students and for a Rotarian from each club in the district involved in youth exchange, the cost of which is covered by the yearly fee assessed to each club.

### **Who Attends**

Attendance is mandatory for all new inbound students .

Club Youth Exchange Officers/Counsellors should attend. Attendance is mandatory for at least one Rotarian for each club involved in Youth Exchange. This is required for RI certification for Youth Exchange.

Youth Exchange officers for each club will be asked to Register themselves and their inbound student.

## **Silverstar Weekend in the Snow –Weekend in December**

### **What Happens**

This weekend is for Inbound Students to have a fun weekend at Silverstar with skiing lessons, tubing, visit with Santa and other fun activities. The cost is part of the administrative fee the clubs pay.

This weekend is also used by the District Youth Exchange Committee to determine preliminary country placement for the new Outbound Students. This can be a complex task because not just the wishes of the students are taken into account, but also the number of openings for each country and determining an appropriate match of student to country.

## **Winter Weekend in the Mountains. (Location changes)**

### **Who Attends**

All Inbound and Outbound Students, the District Youth Exchange Committee and Rotarians who bring students to the event.

### **What happens**

This is the first orientation event for the newly chosen Outbound Students and the first time that all the Inbound and Outbound Students get together. While there is orientation involved, there is a lot of fun for the students, including outdoor activities and some indigenous activities.

### **Who Attends**

All Inbound and Outbound Students, the District Youth Exchange Committee, and Rotarians who bring inbound and outbound students.

## **Outbound Student Orientation – April Weekend**

### **What happens**

This is a training weekend for the Outbound Students and their parents to help prepare them before leaving on Exchange. It will help orient them with their country of choice, meet with Inbound Students from their country, and get advice on how to handle almost any situation they encounter. This weekend is very important for the Parents of the Outbound Students to help them prepare and answer questions, such as How much money will they need, can we visit them, what happens if they get homesick, etc.? Parents learn one of the most important lessons - let go and stop worrying, and what to do and who to contact if there is a problem.

Necessary education sessions are also provided to the Youth Exchange Officers or Youth Exchange Club committee.

### **Who Attends**

Outbound Students and their Parents – as well as Inbound Students – attendance is mandatory - attendance is mandatory.

Youth Exchange Chairs/or Counselors and District Committee Members

Registration Information will be sent out to Students, Parents and Youth Exchange officers and the District Committee.

## **District Conference**

### **What Happens**

Rotarians in our District gather to celebrate the past year and reacquaint with each other.

### **Who Attends**

The Inbound students must attend as this is how we show how important Youth Exchange is in our District. Inbound students perform and show their appreciation for the opportunity.

### **Inbound bus/camping trip (Immediately following the District Conference)**

### **What Happens**

Inbound students finish with the District Conference on Sunday and have done bus trip stopping in certain cities doing fun activities along the way. This is the last opportunity for them to be a group and share their experiences and make lasting friendships.

### **Rebound Weekend (middle to end of July in Omak, Washington)**

### **What Happens**

After the Outbound Students have been gone for a year and then return home, there is an adjustment to be made both by the parents and the student. This is called Reverse Culture Shock.

The parents may be expecting the same child back that they sent abroad only to be surprised by the maturity of the young adult returning. Their child may now want certain independence and freedoms. The student, after having a fantastic and eventful year, will want to share their experiences with their friends, only to find them tiring of their stories.

This weekend gets all the Outbounds and Families together to share their stories and listen to the others and to normalize the emotional adjustment period returning to their home country.

### **Who Attends**

All returning Outbound Students in July. Parents of the Outbounds are expected to attend too. Please consider this weekend mandatory as it's a very important event. The students become "Rebounds" and are invited to assist with training of the next set of Outbounds as ROTEX.