



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

What is Rotary?

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 Rotary Clubs conduct projects to address today's challenges, including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water and environmental concerns. For more information about Rotary, visit the Rotary website at www.rotary.org.

Why Youth Exchange?

Rotary maintains a strong connection to youth and young adults, sponsoring youth service clubs such as Interact, Rotaract and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). Rotarians are also globally-minded. For over 80 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. Rotary Youth Exchange allows students and host families to meet new friends and form international bonds, to embrace new experiences and cultural differences and for students to become ambassadors for their own culture. More than 80 countries and over 8,000 students each year participate in the Youth Exchange program, which is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary Clubs.

Youth Exchange Programs

Rotary offers two types of exchange programs: long-term and short-term.

Long-Term Exchange

Long-term exchanges usually last one year (10 to 11 months), during which you attend school and live with families in your host country. To gain a greater understanding of the culture, you will live with at least two, preferably three, host families during your stay. To ensure your safety, the host Rotary Club conscientiously screens and selects all host families. In addition, you are assigned a Rotary Counselor – a member of the host Rotary Club, who

maintains contact with you during your exchange, acts as a liaison between you, the host family, the school and the Rotary Club, and assists with problems that may arise during your exchange

Short-Term Exchanges

The most common type of short-term exchange is family-to-family. The family-to-family short-term exchange entails a three to five week visit to another country where you would stay with a family with a student of similar age to your own. After your visit, you would return home with that student, who would then stay three to five weeks with your family. The exchanges typically take place during the summer.

Eligibility

Rotary Youth Exchange programs are open to students ages 15 to 18. To qualify, applicants should be above-average students who are mature, possess leadership capabilities, can be independent and are sufficiently disciplined to adhere to program rules. Candidates should also possess qualities such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things that will enable them to fully experience life in another country and become excellent cultural ambassadors.

Program Costs

The program is completely administered by Rotary Club members, keeping program expenses low. Typically, students and their parents are expected to cover the following expenses:

- ⤴ Round-trip airfare
- ⤴ Travel insurance that includes medical, accident and illness coverage and meets the requirements of the host and sponsor clubs and districts (the **annual single premium** for a long-term exchange is approximately \$900-\$1,000 USD)
- ⤴ All travel documents, such as passports and visas
- ⤴ Clothing (including a required blue blazer, identifying the student as a Youth Exchange student) and other necessary personal expense
- ⤴ Spending money, ancillary travel and tours
- ⤴ Traditionally, students will take along a supply of business cards to provide to people that they meet during their exchange and lapel pins as a lasting memory to trade with other exchange students – these are now provided by our Rotary District
- ⤴ A fee payable to Rotary District 6060 in the amount of \$250 to cover program administrative costs

In addition, long-term exchange students

- ⤴ Are required to maintain an emergency reserve fund of approximately \$400 USD for unexpected expenses that may arise during the year
- ⤴ May be required to attend foreign language camps or other cultural orientation sessions at a cost of approximately \$400 - \$500 USD.

Sharing in the other program costs are our generous host families - who provide free room and board, the host community - which provides free school tuition, and the host Rotary Club - which offers a monthly stipend of typically \$75 to \$100 USD.

What are My Responsibilities?

As a Youth exchange student, you agree to:

- ▲ Act as an ambassador for your home culture
- ▲ Abide by all Program Rules of your host Rotary Club and District
- ▲ Accept the supervision of the host family, Rotary Club and Rotary District
- ▲ Be inquisitive and be an active participant in your exchange

Where will My Exchange Be?

Exchanges can take place wherever there is Rotary, which is in more than 200 countries and geographical areas throughout the world. More specifically, our District only engages in exchanges with fully-accredited Districts. Our preferred exchange partners include:

Austria Argentina Belgium Brazil Chile	Denmark Finland France Germany Italy	Japan Russian Federation Spain Switzerland Taiwan
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Other countries with whom we have conducted exchanges in recent years have included:

Latvia	Mexico Norway	Thailand Turkey
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And other countries may be possible.

We ask our students to name their **top five** countries of choice. The student must be willing to accept a placement in **any one** of those five countries and we will make every effort to place the student in one of the five. We do not guarantee a student their first choice, and, for reasons having to do with program balance, diversity and other factors, we may prefer to offer to the student one of his/her secondary choices. In certain circumstances, we may offer students additional choices to consider for their exchange. A student may also name countries of choice not on the above lists, but with the understanding that if we do not have a prior relationship with the Rotary District in that country, or if we have concerns with the exchange program in that country, or if there are security concerns, then that choice may not receive further consideration.

How to Apply

Rotary Youth Exchange is administered by local Rotary Clubs and Districts. District 6060 covers the eastern third of Missouri. District 6060 is a member district of South Central Rotary Youth Exchange (SCRYE). To start the application process, go to the **PROGRAM LINKS** page - YEAH Links on this website. You will also need the sponsorship of a local

Rotary Club in your community. We will assist you in making contact with your local Rotary Club. For further information, contact our District Outbound Coordinator, whose contact information you can find under **PROGRAM CONTACTS**.

The priority deadline for applications is November 1. Applications after that date may be subject to time and availability limitations. If endorsed by a local Rotary Club, you will then be contacted to set up an interview with our District Committee. You, along with your parents, will be interviewed by the District Committee, usually scheduled in November or December. Afterwards, you will be notified as to whether you are accepted into the exchange program. You will next be required to attend our three mandatory orientation sessions. There will be one each on a Saturday in February and March, and a third at our District Conference in April.

Is My Family Required to Host an Inbound Student?

Hosting an Inbound student is not a requirement (except for the family-to-family short-term exchange). That being said, Youth Exchange **IS** an **EXCHANGE PROGRAM**. If we are unable to host Inbound students, we are unable to engage in Outbound exchanges with our partner Districts. Therefore, our Outbound student families are expected to assist us in securing two qualified host families (which may include his or her own family) in their local community for our Inbound students. By hosting a Youth exchange student in your home, you will make a young person's dream come true, and you and your family will share an unforgettable and fulfilling experience.

Rotarians

Dedicated Rotarian volunteers have kept Youth exchange vital for decades. They work behind the scenes to handle the logistics of each exchange. In long-term exchanges, the Host Club and District assists in arranging school enrollment, tuition and other educational matters.

Youth Exchange Officers and Committee Members are the program's leaders. Selected at the Club and District levels, these volunteers are trained to serve as liaisons between the students, the Rotary Club and District and the schools.

Rotary Statement of Conduct For Working With Youth

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact.