

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR YOUTH EXCHANGE INTERVIEW:

This is an important interview. Arrive on time and dress accordingly. The interview process will last for approximately 1 ½ hours. There will be four separate interview stations, each consisting of 2-4 Rotarians, former Outbound parents and former Outbound students. You will rotate from station to station and the interviewers will take turns asking a variety of questions. You are encouraged to join us for lunch either after your interviews or before. During lunch you will have a chance to talk with current inbound students and former exchange students.

At one station you will be asked some questions about Rotary. We want to know that you have a general understanding of what Rotary is. Some helpful websites are www.rotary.org and www.rotary6080.org

As you rotate from station during your interview, your parents will have the opportunity to talk to former Outbound parents and students. In addition, our District Youth Exchange Chairman or Outbound Coordinators will meet with your parents individually to answer any outstanding questions and to follow up on the questionnaire that they have submitted.

Applicants will be selected based on general appearance, ambition, enthusiasm, general knowledge, conversational ability, poise, flexibility, academics, recommendations and the quality of the long-term application. We are looking for outgoing students who, in our best judgment, have the characteristics to adapt to new (and challenging) situations, the willingness to make the necessary effort to learn a new language prior to going on exchange and the personal traits to represent the U.S. and Rotary well.

WHAT'S NEXT – AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

Within a few days you will be notified if you have been selected as an Outbound CANDIDATE. You MAY also be advised of your POSSIBLE country assignment. (Country assignments can not be guaranteed until an exchange agreement has been finalized with the hosting country.) Although we try to assign students to one of their “preferred” countries, this does not always happen. We hope that all students will be flexible and willing to accept wherever they are assigned, as any exchange will be a life-changing experience. Should you decide to turn down your tentatively assigned country, you may – or may not – be offered another option.

Rotary Youth Exchange is based on a one-for-one exchange, meaning we must accept a reciprocal Inbound student for every Outbound student we send. The families of our Outbound students are our best resource for finding host families and we rely on them to help us find host families in the community. For that reason, we ask that you provide the names and contact information for three families in the community that you have spoken with who would be willing to discuss hosting a reciprocal student with the local Rotary Club. This MAY make the difference in whether or not your sponsor club is willing to commit to hosting your reciprocal student. If we have not received a commitment from a sponsoring Rotary Club to host a reciprocal inbound student next year, you may be selected as an “alternate”, which means that you will be placed on a waiting list until we have confirmed Inbound hosting agreements. Or, in the event that one of the other selected candidates withdraws from the exchange you may be offered that position. (Withdrawals happen with some regularity, so don't give up if you are on the waiting list). After a Rotary club has agreed to sponsor you and a commitment has been made to host the reciprocal Inbound student, we will confirm arrangements with the hosting country, and you will be notified of a firm commitment.

NOTE: All students accepted into the program are considered “**conditional**” until they have completed the ENTIRE orientation process and shown progress in learning their host country's language and about their host country's culture.