



Want to be a short-term host family with Rotary?

What is Rotary?

- World's largest service organization
- Founded in 1905 in Chicago, IL
- Over 1.2MM members in over 45,000 clubs in 200+ countries
- Donates \$350MM+ per year to service initiatives, including: Polio Plus, Shelter Box, global and community level service projects, scholarships, and peace initiatives, including youth programs.

What is Rotary Youth Exchange?

- Established in 1929 in Denmark (87 years ago)
- Our Rotary district 6360 covers all of southwest Michigan and includes 54 Rotary clubs; many of these clubs participate in long-term and/or short-term youth exchange programs
- Worldwide about 9,000 students (age 15 to 18.5) participate in Rotary youth exchange programs in 80+ countries annually

What is STEP?

- STEP stands for "Short-Term Exchange Program"
- Rotary offers these STEP programs to young leaders all over the world to promote multicultural understanding, good will and peace.
- There are two types of STEP programs: Family to Family (F2F) and Multicultural Camps

What is a Family-to-Family (F2F) exchange?

- 1-1 summer exchanges between a US high school student and overseas student
- Our US student's family hosts their exchange student in their US home with their own high schooler, typically for one month, and vice versa; the international host family hosts your high schooler in their home abroad with their own high schooler, for about a month
- This F2F exchange is matched by Rotary, and each host family, along with local Rotary club support, provides the cultural experience in their home
- High school students are matched of same gender and similar age
- It is a cultural exchange between families – NOT a vacation – and it WILL be a life-changing experience for both your high schooler and your family

Why consider a family-to-family short-term exchange through Rotary?

- **Global Support Network** - Over 1.2MM members in over 45,000 clubs.
- **Personal Support** - Your son or daughter is sponsored by a SW MI club here and a club in another country, with multiple contacts in both countries at club and district levels.
- **Low Cost** - Rotary is a volunteer organization, therefore the cost of the program is very affordable.
- **Local Immersion** - Your son or daughter will be living with a native host family, immersed in their language and culture. They gain multicultural understanding, making them seasoned world citizens and providing resume experience.

- **High Standards** – Students are ambassadors for the US and Rotary, held to high standards. Training, rules and codes of conduct are in place to ensure successful exchanges.
- **Safety** – Every Rotarian and host family participating in exchange programs are fully vetted, background checked and trained to ensure student safety throughout his/her exchange.

Who can be a STEP F2F host family?

- YOU can, or someone you know, who has a high school student age 15-18.5 wanting to do a F2F exchange
- You are NOT required to be a Rotarian
- Host Families will be fully vetted by Rotary Youth Program members, including a background check, pictures of home, interviews and home visits
- Host families receive significant support from the local Rotary club contact and STEP Coordinator
- Rotary Club members may assist with transportation, visits to community events, and/or visits to area events (e.g., college/professional sports games, Michigan tourist attractions).

What are a host family's requirements?

- Central States Host Family application and F2F Student application
 - Pictures of Home
 - References – 2 (non-family)
 - Background Check – InCheck – everyone in home > 18 years
 - Complete Youth Protection Awareness module – everyone in home > 18
 - STEP Coordinator visits home – files report in Rotary's YEAH database
 - All Above Completed = APPROVAL!
 - Now the family may start to communicate with the student!
- Host Family will receive Host Family manual, and participate in an Orientation with other Host Families prior to student arriving

How to be a good host family?

- Work with your student on the native language. Most international students arrive very fluent, but want to learn the local lingo.
- Do some traveling, even if close to home.
- Show them your favorite customs, foods, stores, places – a trip to the grocery store is a cultural experience!
- Treat them like family, not a guest. Have them help with chores and family responsibilities.

How does Rotary vet volunteers?

- Application with 2 personal references
- Criminal Background Check
- Youth Protection Awareness
- US Volunteer Training
- US Department of State Training on Rules & Regulations
- Process is through Central States Rotary Youth Exchange

How much does a F2F exchange cost?

- Round-trip flight
- \$250 STEP fee (includes travel insurance, orientation and DB fees) per student
- Spending money for your child while in his/her exchange country abroad

- Each host family (in the outbound country and your family in Michigan) covers the cost of food and lodging and transportation while on exchange, and each Rotary club (host and sponsor) contributes to the multicultural experiences while in country.

STEP Application Process for F2F

Oct – Dec: Applications reviewed for completeness and eligibility.

Jan – Mar: Student and parent interviews conducted. For each applicant accepted, Rotary volunteers assign the sponsoring local Rotary Club.

Jan – Apr: Rotary volunteers work on matching each applicant for their international F2F exchange or available Rotary country camp.

Mar – Jul: Pre-exchange orientation and guiding each applicant through the pre-exchange preparation steps.

Apr – Sep: Sponsoring Rotary clubs schedule required pre and post-exchange visits with their sponsored student and parents whereby each STEP student is welcomed by their sponsoring club and sent off with Rotary swag, and each STEP students returns to give a presentation to their sponsor club about their multicultural experience.

How do we apply?

- To APPLY for a short-term family-to-family exchange, the high school student must complete their application here: <https://yehub.net/CEN-stapp>
- And their parent(s) must complete their host family application here: <https://yehub.net/CEN-hfapp>

Still questions? Contact us

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Please consider becoming a F2F host family

- Opening Your Home
- Opening Your Heart
- Facilitating the change
- Facilitating peace and understanding