

District 7280 Rotary Youth Exchange

A Guide to Help Rotary District 7280 Clubs Implement and Sustain Successful Rotary Youth Exchange Programs

Introduction

Rotary clubs that participate in the Youth Exchange program are demonstrating their commitment to International Service in one of the best, most direct, most meaningful, and most fun ways possible. Students, host families, Rotary clubs and many others gain countless benefits from this life-changing experience involving international cultural connections.

Objective

To foster world peace, international understanding and good will by extending international communication at the personal level through the exchange of students of high school age. It is our hope that these young people will be able to observe, first hand, the problems and accomplishments of other countries by living with and meeting people of cultures, creeds and colors other than their own.

3 Ways Rotary Clubs Participate

- **Long Term/School Year Outbound Program.** Recruit high school students to live and study in another country during a school year.
- **Long Term/School Year Inbound Program.** Recruit families from their local communities to host students from other countries for all or part of a school year.
- **Short Term Program.** Recruit students and families for the Short Term/Summer Program, in which a U.S. student travels to another country for about 3-4 weeks, lives with a family with a similar-aged child, and then returns to the U.S. with the child from the other country for a 3-4 week stay. Short Term applications are due March 30 of each year.

District 7280 Rotary Youth Exchange Resources

- Color brochures.
- Posters.
- Templates for club-specific Rotary Youth Exchange flyers.
- Templates for club-specific press releases.
- Programs for Rotary Clubs.
- Application packets for interested students and host families.
- Orientation guides for host families.
- Ongoing help and assistance for questions about the program.
- **And much more.** See Rotary District 7280 Youth Exchange Committee contact information on Page 2.

Simple Steps Clubs Can Take to Implement and Sustain Successful Youth Exchange Programs

These are suggestions for actions clubs can take to start and maintain Youth Exchange programs that benefit exchange students, host families, club members, other students, community members and the world. The steps below do not necessarily need to be done in this order and it is not mandatory that all these actions be taken:

1. Discuss the Rotary Youth Exchange program with your club members. Make a commitment to get involved.
2. Invite a member of the Rotary District 7280 Youth Exchange Committee to do a presentation on Youth Exchange for your club. (See contact information below.)
3. Identify a Youth Exchange Officer (or two) for your club. A YEO is someone who will get information about Youth Exchange from the district committee, share that information with the club members and be involved in the program in the club.
4. Encourage club members to tell their family and friends about the program, in the efforts to recruit host families for inbound students from other countries and U.S. students to participate by traveling to other countries for cultural exchanges.
5. Send out a press release to local media to help recruit host families and student participants.
6. Ask schools to email to parents and students Rotary Youth Exchange information.
7. Ask churches and other organizations to tell their members about Rotary Youth Exchange.
8. Meet with the guidance counselors at your local school to provide them with information for students.
9. Set up a table at your local school to tell students and others about the program...Speak in classes...
10. Set up a table at your local school during an orientation when parents might be in the building, and talk with parents about the program.
11. Promote the program to the Interact Club at your high school.
12. **Get more ideas** by contacting and staying in touch with the Rotary District 7280 Youth Exchange Committee. (See contact information below.)

District 7280 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee

- Nancy Clemente, Chair, 814-671-3021, nancy7280@gmail.com
- Mary Lord, Inbound Coordinator, (724) 290-1173, mlord@ruppfio.com
- Susan Pokorney, Short Term Coordinator, 724-866-7940, susanpokorney@gmail.com
- Jeff Simmons, Outbound Coordinator, 724-875-1136, jssim89167@yahoo.com

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