

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WANTED FOR ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

International Cultural Connections Offer Life-Changing Experiences

Rotary Clubs in our region are presenting area students and families with opportunities to become involved in the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program.

2 Ways for Students to Participate

1. **Long Term/School Year program.** Travel overseas to spend a whole school year in a foreign country.
2. **Short Term program.** Spend 3-6 weeks in a foreign country in the home of another student; host that student in your home for 3-6 weeks. Short Term applications are due March 30 of each year.

2 Ways for Families to Participate

1. **Long Term/School Year program.** Host a student from another country in your home for part or all of a school year.
2. **Short Term.** Enable your child to spend 3-6 weeks in a foreign country in the home of another student; host that student in your home for 3-6 weeks. Short Term applications are due March 30 of each year.

Students Needed for School Year Rotary Youth Exchange Program

Are you between 15 and 17 years old and looking for something exciting and different to do during the next school year? Do you want to travel overseas and help increase world understanding here at home? Rotary Clubs of District 7280 are searching for outgoing high school students to travel overseas to over 40 countries next year as part of the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program.

Eligible students should be of good character and reputation, not older than 18 at time of departure, have above average academic ability and have a pleasant personality. A preliminary application with a local interview is required before the Rotary District 7280 interviews in November. Country preferences will be taken into consideration and placements made in January.

The student's share of expenses includes a \$450 youth exchange program fee, airfare, insurance and other travel costs. The program is for one year and the hosting Rotary club will provide housing with host families, food, schooling and a monthly allowance. **Check out www.exchangestudent.org for more information.** To request a packet of outbound information, see the Rotary contact information on Page 2.

Host Families Needed for School Year Youth Exchange Program

Families are needed to host an in-bound foreign student for all or part of a school year. Many Rotary Clubs have found it good to have the in-bound student live with 2-3 families during the school year so the student gets to enjoy a variety of experiences, several families get to enjoy that student and no one family is over-burdened. The local Rotary Club will be responsible for getting approval from the school district for the student's enrollment. The club also provides the student with a monthly allowance.

All families—even those without children—are encouraged to apply to be hosts. Any reputable family in our community is eligible to host a Rotary exchange student. For more information on how to become a host family, see the Rotary contact information on Page 2.

Rotary Short Term Exchange Program

A Rotary Short Term Exchange presents opportunities for applicants to advance their knowledge and world understanding by allowing them to exchange in a different country. Participants will live with host families in their selected land usually for 3-6 weeks in the summer, under the sponsorship of their local Rotary Club.

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.

Who is eligible? Any applicant age 15-18 1/2 of good character who possesses a warm personality and a desire to live abroad and host in return. Candidates should be adaptable and flexible, well mannered and want to experience life in other countries and cultures. Children of Rotarians and non-Rotarians are equally eligible.

Why is it called an exchange program? You will be matched with a student of similar interests in a country of your selection or approval. The two of you will spend an agreed upon time together - half the time in your home and half the time in their home. The exchange must be a 3 week minimum each way, but can be up to 6 weeks. Short Term applications are due March 30 of each year.

Is proficiency in a foreign language needed? NO! The program is cultural in nature, but is also for a short period of time. Many countries throughout the world teach English as a second language and most participating students are quite proficient in speaking our language. If you have taken a foreign language in high school and elect to visit a country that speaks that language, you will be able to gain some conversational ability, but most students do not find language to be a barrier to having a great exchange experience.

How does a student benefit from being abroad? Being away in a foreign country has a powerful broadening and accelerating effect on your maturing process. Managing your finances and making decisions influences your independence from what your parents would have done for you as a matter of course. You develop an understanding of and a tolerance for people which will benefit you throughout your life.

How much does it cost? Expenses in this program are much lower than our year-round program. Students pay approximately \$200 for required health insurance and administrative fees. The only other cost is for plane fare (which can be made on your own or through the exchange program's travel agency) and spending money for souvenirs, etc. The host families provide room and board and entertainment expenses in each household.

Contacts for More Information for Interested Students and Families

- Nancy Clemente, Chair, 814-671-3021, nancy7280@gmail.com
- Mary Lord, Inbound Coordinator, 724-290-1173, mlord@ruppfiore.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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