

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE IN BRIEF

Since 1974, Rotary has been involved in a youth exchange program to help foster international understanding and world peace. At the present time, approximately 8,000 teenagers attend a year of high school in another country as Rotary Youth Exchange students.

Candidates should rank in the upper half of their high school class, be of good character and 15 1/2 to 18 1/2 years old at time of departure, usually July or August, and return the following July.

Expenses for processing fees, information and orientation conferences, insurance, personal expenses during the exchange and round-trip transportation are the responsibility of the exchange student's parents.

The hosting Rotary Club in the country where the student spends his or her year is responsible for providing suitable host family and school arrangements. The number of host families will range from one to five, but usually one to three. The host Rotary Club is also responsible for providing a monthly allowance equivalent to \$80 USD in purchasing power.

Some countries want a minimum of 2-4 years of language skills—but most do not require any previous knowledge of their language. Exchange students begin understanding and speaking the "new" language within 3 to 4 months.

OVER 40 COUNTRIES LISTED AS CHOICES

There are over 40 countries which participate in the ESSEX Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Some exchanges can be one way exchanges. Each exchange candidate designates countries in order of preference. The ultimate country assigned is usually one listed in the top ten choices.

Volunteer Rotarians around the world serve as Youth Exchange country correspondents to determine and coordinate the number of students to be accepted in their country each year.

SELECTION AND ORIENTATION PROCESS

Each exchange student is eventually sponsored by a local Rotary Club, which interviews and selects the best candidate(s) to represent their community, state, and country. The Rotary Club has a Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) who becomes the main contact with the prospective exchange student. The YEO counsels the candidate through the interview process and keeps in contact with the student during the year of exchange.

There could be two or three interviews during the selection process by various levels of interviewing committees. (club level – district level) The parents are also interviewed.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program prides itself in the extraordinary efforts to inform and orient

OUTBOUND exchange students and their parents through 3 or 4 weekend conferences, which sometimes include the inbound foreign exchange students who live in District 6330. Rotary Youth Exchange students are well prepared for a challenging and rewarding exchange experience.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

A simple list of guidelines directs the daily actions of Rotary Youth Exchange students – **The 4 D's...**

NO DRUGS – Not only are illegal drugs subject for criminal punishment in North America, but a Canadian or American citizen involved with them in a foreign country could be subject to immediate and lengthy jail terms.

NO DRINKING – As local Provincial and State laws prohibit drinking of alcoholic beverages, the same would apply in the host country. Exceptions of beverages at host family meals in moderation may apply.

NO DRIVING – Because of legal liability and insurance considerations, students are forbidden to drive any motorized vehicle while on the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

NO STEADY DATING - Serious romances can lead to "heartbreaks", as the exchange eventually comes to an end.

WHAT IS THE COST OF AN EXCHANGE?

The cost of the exchange varies depending upon the country of destination. Countries in Central America are less expensive to travel to, where air fares to the Orient and Southern Hemisphere can be considerably more. WE require an "OPEN RETURN TICKET", which many hosting countries prefer anyway.

There is a District Fee that is paid when the application is received by the sponsoring Rotary Club. If a candidate is unsuccessful in being selected at the District Interview Conference, a full refund is made. The fee includes the Rotary blazer, Rotary insurance, and administration and conference costs. It is estimated overall that an exchange can run between \$5,000 to \$8,000 .

REBOUNDS SAY, "Year goes too fast"

Returning exchange students and their parents admit that the year goes by extremely fast and all the apprehension about home-sickness and loneliness were resolved. The students and their parents gladly share their experiences with the next group about to begin their year of incredible fun and lasting memories.

Detach and Return

I am interested in learning more about Rotary Youth Exchange program.

I am interested in applying for the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

(Your inquiry places you under NO obligation to participate... whether next year, the following year or 3 years from now)

Age ____ Date of Birth _____

Year in School _____

Date of Inquiry _____

Name of School _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State or Province _____

Postal Code/Zip _____

Parent(s) _____

Please return this to the contact person listed on the back page

If selected as a Rotary Youth Exchange student, I am interested in the following ten countries:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

G School Year Program

I understand my choices could change and I am under no obligation to participate in the program until I formally apply and am selected by my sponsoring Rotary Club and by the District Interview process.

EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE IMPACTS STUDENTS FOREVER

The experience of attending a year of high school in another country has proven to have a major impact on the lives of exchange students.

Someone noted: "Next to getting married and having children, the year of exchange will usually be the most influential and life-changing experience they will encounter."

Exchange students return home more mature, poised and self-confident. Most have reached a self-analysis of who they really are and have a greater appreciation for family. They tend to do better at the college / university level than their peers and often accelerate their class credits through testing of language skills

For many, the exchange helps students focus more clearly on career choices and relationships with friends and family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Outbound Chair**

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DISTRICT 7640 ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School Year Program

**Part of the Multi-District
ESSEX States Rotary Youth Exchange
Program, Inc.**

www.exchangestudent.org

**PICTURE YOURSELF
ATTENDING A YEAR OF
HIGH SCHOOL IN
ANOTHER COUNTRY**

**Thousands of teenagers become
Rotary Youth Exchange Students each
year.**

YOU could be one of them!