

DISTRICT WEBSITE POLICY-Working with youth

The district executive committee recently adopted the following policy:

District 6270 Website Policy-Working with youth

No club shall promote the exchange program in a way that compromises the privacy, safety or security of the participants, host families, and schools. Specifically, clubs cannot include personal student data or contact information (including address, phone or email addresses) on websites or any other promotional materials. Written waivers must be obtained for the use of any individual student photographs. (Shots of groups of students are excluded.)

This policy emphasizes the standard for exchange student information contained on club websites. Rotary International, the Department of State and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) all have restrictions on what might compromise a student's safety. They further recommend that permission be obtained before an individual picture of a student is posted. The Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Program board of directors recently adopted a similar policy.

- If you have a picture of an individual student on a website, you should not use the students' family name, age, and home town in their home country.
- It is okay to indicate that you have Sarah from Germany, not Sarah Gephardt from Berlin, Germany then give her parents' family name.
- We should not identify the host family here is the US, using their family name, it is enough to state the Bill & Sally are hosting Sarah from Germany for example.
- This policy applies to all Rotary youth activities not just youth exchange, if any of your clubs activities includes working with youth then this applies.
- Other media may publish more information than this policy would allow, that is their problem.

Unfortunately, predators can use this information to befriend an unsuspecting youth. We acknowledge that young people can put a lot more information than is advisable on Facebook or other social networking sites, and we should caution them about doing so.

This is a new area for everyone, welcome to the 21st century; obviously we need to learn how to use this technology properly. There may be some concerns and possibly confusion regarding this matter. Please feel free to contact any one on the district executive committee or the youth protection committee should you need clarification about this.

This does clearly indicate why each and every Rotarian must be knowledgeable about District 6270 & RI youth protection policy adopted by the district in 2005. Your club needs to be vigilant in monitoring club activities to be absolutely certain that your club is not jeopardizing the safety of any of the youth, host families or schools associated with any Rotary youth programs.

We simply do not want your club to be the source that assisted a predator in taking advantage of someone.

District 6270 Youth Protection Committee
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