

What is Rotary Youth Exchange?

Rotary Youth Exchange is a country-to-country exchange of 15 to 18½ year old high-school age students. Students may not be older than 18½ at the start of their exchange. This is a cultural and educational experience for both the student and host families. Most exchanges last 10-12 months, and generally follow the school year as defined by the exchange student's home country. Students must be above average in academics, willing to learn a new language and ready to experience a new culture.

Objectives Of The Program

- o **To further international goodwill and understanding** by enabling students to study first hand some of the problems and accomplishments of people in lands other than their own.
- o **To enable students to advance their education** by studying for a year in an environment entirely different from their own, and undertaking the study of courses and subjects not normally available to them in their own country.
- o **To give students opportunities to broaden their outlook** by learning to live with and meet people of different cultures, creeds, and colors and by having to cope with day-to-day problems in an environment completely different from the one they have experienced at home.
- o **To have students act as ambassadors** for their own country by addressing Rotary Clubs, community organizations and youth groups in their host country; by imparting as much knowledge as they can of their own country, its attributes and its problems to the people they meet during their year abroad.
- o **To provide sufficient time to study and observe another country's culture** so that upon returning home students can pass on the knowledge they have gained by addressing Rotary clubs and other organizations and assimilate the positive aspects into their everyday living.

The Exchange Student's Role

Students are expected to be **actively involved** as a member of the family, as a participant in a wide array of school activities, as a member of the community, and with his/her hosting Rotary Club.

Students are expected to:

- follow the rules of Rotary Youth Exchange
- attend school regularly
- attend Rotary meetings regularly and participate in Rotary activities
- learn their host country's language
- adapt to everyday life in their host country
- obey the laws of their host country
- serve as an ambassador for their family, their sponsoring Rotary Club and District, their state and their country

What Rotary Youth Exchange Is Not

Rotary Youth Exchange is **not** a year-long vacation. The student's host families, host Rotary Club and host District are not obligated to provide endless travel opportunities nor are they expected to assist the student in gaining acceptance into colleges or universities after the exchange year has been completed.