



Making a World of Difference:



Long-Term Youth Exchange

Are you ready to . . .

- ☞ Form international friendships
- ☞ Learn new ways to communicate
- ☞ Gain a fresh understanding of yourself and others
- ☞ Immerse yourself in a different culture
- ☞ Appreciate others' ways of doing things
- ☞ Act as an ambassador for and educate others about your country

Then you are ready for Rotary Youth Exchange!

This year, more than 7,000 young people will have the opportunity of a lifetime — a chance to live in another country and see the world from a new perspective through Rotary Youth Exchange. This could be your year!



As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you will spend a year living with host families and attending school in a country other than your own. You will learn a new way of living, maybe even a new language, and a great deal about yourself.

As you are learning, you will also be teaching the people you meet about your country, your culture, and your ideas. You will be a young ambassador, helping to bring the world closer together and making some good friends in the process.

If you are ready for the challenge and the rewards of living in another land as an exchange student, then you are ready to discover new worlds through the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

What is Rotary?

Rotary International is an international humanitarian service organization. Rotarians are business and professional leaders who volunteer their time and resources to help others in their local communities and throughout the world.



Rotary clubs carry out a variety of service projects that address such critical issues as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, substance abuse, and pollution. Service to youth is a major

emphasis among Rotarians. Working with and for tomorrow's leaders, Rotary clubs sponsor service clubs for youth and young adults and offer career development and mentoring programs.

Rotary Youth Exchange is administered by Rotary clubs and districts. With more than 30,000 clubs worldwide, Rotary clubs have an extensive network of volunteers ready to ensure the necessary support for the program. Rotary clubs have sponsored successful international youth exchanges for more than 30 years.

Who is eligible?

Rotary Youth Exchange programs are open to qualified students ages 15-19, relatives of Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. To qualify, applicants should be above-average students who have demonstrated leadership in their community. Candidates should also possess qualities, such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things, that will enable them to fully experience life in another country and become excellent cultural ambassadors. All applicants must be sponsored by a local Rotary club and complete a written application and oral interview.



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How much will it cost?

Costs vary from one Rotary district to another. For specific information, contact your local club or district. Typically, the parents or guardians and the student are expected to cover the following expenses:

- ✓ Round-trip airfare
- ✓ Health and accident insurance that meets the requirements of the host club and district
- ✓ All travel documents, such as passports and visas
- ✓ Clothing and spending money
- ✓ An emergency fund for unexpected expenses during the year
- ✓ Ancillary travel and tours

What will I do on my exchange?

During your exchange, you will live with a host family and attend school. You will make friends and get to know the area in which you are living. To gain a greater understanding of your host



country's culture, you will probably live with two or three host families during your stay. To ensure the well-being of all Youth Exchange participants, the local Rotary club carefully screens the prospective families and selects those who will provide a safe and caring environment.

What do past participants say?

"The year I was away from home, I met friends from all over the world, and suddenly places like Croatia and Poland weren't dots on a map."

— Zimbabwean exchange student to Canada

"Those short 12 months were the beginning of a strongly developed interest in international relations."

— Dutch exchange student to the USA

"The opportunities that the Rotary program gives students to participate in family life, school, and social activities — and to learn the language and customs of a different culture — are certainly working toward . . . peace."

— Brazilian exchange student to Australia

"Rotary Youth Exchange is a step above any other program because of the thorough orientation, loving host families, and the support of two entire Rotary clubs, at home and in our host country."

— U.S. exchange student to Japan

"I would recommend this experience to anyone. . . . It makes a world of difference."

— English exchange student to Peru



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