

Wooster Rotary Guidelines for Host Families

1. **THE STUDENT IS NOT A GUEST OR SERVANT.** The student is not to be treated as an "honored guest" in your home, nor is the student to be a servant or a permanent baby-sitter. The student is a member of the family and is to be treated in the same manner as your own son or daughter. Please include the student in family activities and celebrations so that they may learn about our culture.
2. **SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS.** It is not required that you provide the student with a private bedroom in your home; however, a single bed is essential.
3. **HOUSEHOLD CHORES.** The student should keep their room neat and their bed made. The student should be expected to perform the same chores that would be done by your son or daughter.
4. **DISCIPLINE.** The student is expected to adapt to the supervision and discipline of the host family. There should be a reasonable curfew for the student during the week and on weekends. Use the same hours as you would set for your own teenagers unless there is a big difference in age.
5. **DRIVING.** A student is not to drive any form of motorized vehicle, under any circumstances. Many legal problems could arise should the student become involved in an accident. Host families are urged to strictly enforce this rule since violation of this rule can result in the student being sent home.
6. **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.** The use of alcohol and drugs is strictly forbidden in the exchange program. Violation of this rule can result in the student being sent home.
7. **HEALTH INSURANCE.** All students are required to purchase a Rotary health insurance policy which covers major medical, surgical and hospital costs.
8. **TRAVEL BEYOND WOOSTER.** An exchange student may go out of town for the day with another teenager if you feel comfortable about the driver. Use the same judgment you would with one of your own children. We do not want students traveling with teenage drivers in bad weather or for long distances, such as to Columbus, without specific Rotary permission. The student is not permitted to go out of town overnight without Rotary permission. If the student travels with the host family for overnights and long distances, please notify your Rotary representative and tell them where the student is going and where the student can be reached. If you have questions about allowing a student to travel, please contact your Rotary representative.
9. **SCHOOL.** Students are expected to attend school regularly and are expected to achieve passing grades.

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10. **DATING.** Students are encouraged to go out socially, and to make friends. Romantic relationships are discouraged.
11. **FINANCES.** Rotary provides a monthly allowance to the exchange students for incidental expenses. The student is to have access to \$350 emergency fund via a savings account or credit card. Students should open a local bank account for any money they have brought from home. The host family is not expected to provide the student with spending money, nor finance clothing, travel or other expenses. The student will pay for all long distance calls. School lunches and academic fees will be paid by Rotary.

(Note: IRS rules may permit a deduction for the months the exchange student is in your home. See your tax advisor.)

11. **COMMUNICATION WITH THE STUDENT.** All exchange students have training in English, but that does not necessarily mean they are fluent upon arrival. If your student has difficulty, feel free to assist them with 3x5 cards with English on one side and their native language on the other. Also post-it notes labeling household items can help during the first few weeks. Students are discouraged from using their native language to communicate even if it is spoken in the host family home.
13. **COMMUNICATING WITH THE STUDENT'S FAMILY.** The student should call home within 12 hours after arrival in the United States, to advise their family they have arrived safely. The student should be encouraged to write home on a regular basis.
14. **DISCUSSION OF RULES.** Shortly after the student arrives have a discussion with the student of your rules and expectations. Make a determination of what the student should call you - we suggest either Mom and Dad or an informal name, not Mr. and Mrs. or Sir.
15. **WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS.** Rotary is available to assist you with any questions or problems you may have. If a problem arises, you are not expected to resolve it yourself.