

## ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PACKET FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS

- Rotary Youth Exchange Application Procedure
- Student Application Form for Club Interview (included in student packet)
- Form for Teacher Recommendation (Be sure to select a teacher or counselor who knows you well.)
- Self-Assessment
- Tips from Esteban Castano, former District 5890 Rotary Exchange student to Thailand
- Brochures for Long-Term and Short-Term Exchanges (separate files)

**For answers to your questions, please write, call or email**

**Anais Watsky 281-370-4200 (home) 281-467-9449 (cell) [awatsky@yahoo.com](mailto:awatsky@yahoo.com)**

### Rotary Youth Exchange Application Procedure

1. Student submits **"Student Application Form for Club Interview" with a 700-word essay (see club application for requirements) and school reference form** to Ms. Anais Watsky. This form can be scanned and emailed to: [awatsky@yahoo.com](mailto:awatsky@yahoo.com); faxed to 281-370-4200 (call before faxing), or "snail" mailed, or hand-delivered to 17814 Running Brook Lane, Spring, TX 77379-6142. Must be RECEIVED by **Mon., November 4, 2019, no later than 10:00 PM.**
2. Willowbrook Rotary Club reviews the club application form, checks references and makes recommendation to District 5890 Youth Exchange Committee. **Club interviews will be on Sat., November 9, 2019, at the office of Northwest Assistance Ministries, 15555 Kuykendahl Road, Houston, TX 77090, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Times for interviews to be announced.**
3. Upon recommendation of the Willowbrook Rotary Club, a club representative will provide the Rotary Youth Exchange LONG-TERM or SHORT-TERM (STEP) application via the club website to the student.
4. Students passing the club interviews **MUST** submit a completed District 5890 LONG-TERM or STEP APPLICATION to the District Committee by December 1, 2019. If you are selected to go onto the District interviews, you will be given instructions on how to access and complete the appropriate form.
5. District Interviews will be conducted on **December 7 - 8, 2019 (Sat. and Sun.)** in Houston which may also be one of the dates for the SAT tests, so applicants should arrange to take their SAT test on another day. **Attendance at the District interview is mandatory for all applicants and at least one parent. YOU MUST BRING WITH YOU THREE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS, each with original signatures in blue ink and original pictures.**

6. Following the District interviews, the Rotary District Committee will review all applicants and inform them within one week whether or not they have been selected for continuation into the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.
7. The Rotary District Committee will work with the applicants for arranging their exchange with another country. (A student is not formally accepted as an exchange student until successful completion of the 4-day orientation camp in **JUNE**.)
8. **Countries with which we are currently have youth exchange relationships with are:**

Argentina	Colombia	Italy	South Korea	Thailand
Belgium	Denmark	Japan	Spain	The Netherlands
Bolivia	France	Paraguay	Sweden	
Brazil	Germany	Poland	Taiwan	

**Please note: all of the countries listed above may not be available for long-term exchanges.**

9. Upcoming significant meetings and activities for 2019-2020
  - November 4- Deadline for submitting club application to the Willowbrook Rotary Club
  - November 9 - Interviews with members of the Willowbrook Rotary Club
  - December 1 - All applications due to the District 5890 Youth Exchange Committee
  - December 7 & 8 - District interviews beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday
  - January - Orientation #1 for long-term students and parents (mandatory)
  - March - Orientation #2 for long-term students and parents (Mandatory)
  - March – Orientation for STEP students and parents
  - June 18 - 21 (tentative date) - Orientation camp (4 days) for long-term students (mandatory)
  - June – August – Departures and arrivals of STEP students
  - August/September – Departure for long-term students for a “year of a lifetime”
10. For more information or questions, please contact Willowbrook Rotarian, Anais Watsky, at 281-370-4200 (home), 281-467-9449 (cell), or [awatsky@yahoo.com](mailto:awatsky@yahoo.com), or fax 281-370-4200 (call before faxing).

**NEXT 2 PAGES FOR CLUB APPLICATION  
DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019**

# ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE WILLOWBROOK ROTARY CLUB

## Student Application Form for Club Interview

District 5890

The Willowbrook Rotary **Club Application plus a 700-word essay** on the topic: "Why I Want to Be A Rotary Exchange Student" to be completed by the student and submitted to Anais Watsky by **Mon., 11/4/19, no later than 10:00 PM**. It can be scanned and emailed to: [awatsky@yahoo.com](mailto:awatsky@yahoo.com), or faxed to 281-370-4200 (call before faxing), or "snail" mailed or hand-delivered to: 17814 Running Brook Lane, Spring, TX 77379-6142.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of August 30, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ yr. \_\_\_\_\_ month

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### Information of Father

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Rotarian Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ (check 1)

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_

Current Classification in School \_\_\_\_\_ (Sophomore, Jr., Sr.)

School Interests/Activities \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies/Accomplishments \_\_\_\_\_

### Information of Mother

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Rotarian Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ (check 1)

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



Important medical questions:

Have you ever been treated for depression? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Are you being treated for depression? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Foreign language experience (language, number of years, proficiency)

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Other Referrals (preferably one or more Rotarians)

Name	Relationship (friend, teacher neighbor, clergy)	Rotarian (Yes, or No)	2 Phone Numbers
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

**Include a 700-word essay with club application. Topic: "Why I Want to Be A Rotary Exchange Student." Insert "yes" to verify essay is attached.** \_\_\_\_\_

Country Preferences 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Exchange Program of Interest Long-Term \_\_\_ STEP \_\_\_ Undecided \_\_\_

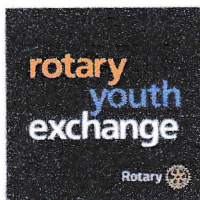
Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' signatures which confirm your willingness that the student applicant participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program for 2020/21.

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send application to Anais Watsky by scanning and emailing to: [awatsky@yahoo.com](mailto:awatsky@yahoo.com), or faxing to 281-370-4200 (call before faxing), or "snail" mailing or hand-delivering to: 17814 Running Brook Lane, Spring, TX 77379-6142. All applications must be received by 10:00 PM, Mon., 11/4/19**



Rotary District \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Rotary Youth Exchange – Long-Term Exchange Program

### Section H: Secondary School Personal Reference

**Student:** Complete the top section of this form, then give the form and a stamped envelope, preaddressed to the Rotary club or district to which you are submitting your application, to a teacher or administrator who knows you and your abilities and accomplishments at school. By so doing, you give permission to that individual to release this information to the Rotary club/district Youth Exchange committee for their review.

Applicant's Full Legal Name	Date of Birth	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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**Evaluator:** This student is applying for a one-year educational study abroad program under Rotary club/district sponsorship. Please complete and forward this form within seven days of receipt to the sponsor Rotary Club/District, in the preaddressed envelope provided. The information you submit *will not be revealed to the student*, unless required by law.

#### 1. Ratings

Area	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	No Basis to Rate
Creative, original thought	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independence, initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intellectual ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional stability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Openness to new ideas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility, adaptability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to communicate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disciplined habits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you believe the applicant has the ability, work habits, character traits, and flexibility to succeed in an unfamiliar environment that will include learning a foreign language? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Do you believe the applicant's parents/legal guardians support his/her wish to spend time abroad? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

*Please use the reverse side of this form, adding pages if necessary, to explain your answers to questions 2 and 3, and to provide any additional comments on the applicant's suitability as an exchange student and cultural ambassador.*

#### RECOMMENDATION

In reference to this Applicant's candidacy as a future Rotary Youth Exchange student, I (check one):

☐ Strongly Recommend
 ☐ Recommend
 ☐ Have No Opinion
 ☐ Do Not Recommend
 ☐ Strongly Do Not Recommend

Name and Title (type or print)	Signature (in blue ink)	Date (e.g., 25 Jan 2012)
Name of School	Phone	E-mail

#### DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM TO THE STUDENT APPLICANT.

Please submit this form directly to:

Anais G. Watsky  
 17814 Running Brook Ln  
 Spring, TX 77379-6142

## ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

### Self Assessment

The following is a self assessment that you can take to see if Rotary Youth Exchange is the right thing for you:

Do you enjoy experiencing new situations and adapt to them quickly?

Are different foods something you enjoy?

When you go to a new place, do new friendships start almost immediately?

Do you view the world from an optimistic perspective?

Is being around new people much more enjoyable for you than being alone?

When you meet someone, do you listen carefully to learn about them?

Can you follow the appropriate rules when faced with a different situation?

Are you able to think through problem situations and make your own decisions?

Have your grades been in the upper third of your class?

Do you want to learn or improve your proficiency in a foreign language?

Will you be age 15 to 18 1/2 at the beginning of the next school year?

Are you in good health?

Do you enjoy service to others through school and community activities?

Would you enjoy representing your community, state, country and culture as a youth ambassador in a foreign country?

Are you interested in learning about other countries and cultures?

Do you enjoy being with others who have very different customs and beliefs?

Would following the Rotary 4-Way Test to make decisions for everything you think, say and do be easy for you?

### The Rotary 4-Way Test

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair to All Concerned?
- Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

If you sincerely answered YES to all of the above, CONGRATULATIONS, you probably have the right stuff to be a Rotary International Youth Ambassador in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program!



5 Tips:

- Do it now, not later.
  - Your world will still be here.
  - Being scared is good.
  - Choose to grow.
  - Stepping stone
- 
- Do it now, not later.
    - College Exchange programs typically last 8-13 weeks. Usually you'll be in dorms with students from your university. 1) 8-13 weeks is not enough time to fully grasp the culture. 2) Being with other students places you in a cocoon of familiarity. You'll inevitably spend your time with your university friends and won't be able to fully immerse yourself in the culture. 3) You will have a lot more schoolwork. This takes time away making friends and learning about the culture.
    - Most importantly, now is the only time you'll be seen as a son or daughter by a host family. As you become an adult, you'll be seen as a *guest* in people's homes. This is vastly different from calling someone, who was recently a stranger, "Mom" or "Dad." That is the ultimate form of cross-cultural connection.
  - Your world will still be here.
    - In one year, you will change so much. You will come back and be surprised by the relatively little change at home. Your friends, your family, your neighborhood, your school, your boyfriend/girlfriend, the highways and billboards– everything will still be here when you get back. In fact, when you get back home, it feels like you had just paused your life for a brief moment.
  - Being scared is good.
    - It means you can still expand your limits. Everybody's scared of change. Embrace this fear and dive into it. You will overcome it. You know what's on the other side—a more confident, more culturally aware, and more mature you.
  - Choose to grow.
    - RYE isn't a vacation. You'll have plenty of vacations in your life. You'll go to plenty of parties. However, you will never again have the opportunity to grow and develop in the same way you grow during RYE. Doing this isn't for your parents. It isn't for your teachers. It's for *you*. Only you can make the decision to go. And you will feel so empowered in the end knowing that **you** made the decision that changed your life.
  - Stepping stone
    - RYE has opened countless doors for me. Since coming back, I've spent 3 months living with my friend's family in Germany, have met my host families in NYC, made plans to visit youth exchange friends in Mexico and will head back to Thailand soon to see my school friends and host families. My college application essays were about my year abroad and it undoubtedly helped me get into college. I am excited for the future knowing that RYE is a part of me.