

Central States  
**Rotary**  
Youth Exchange



SERVING 20 DISTRICTS IN ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA,  
NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN AND ONTARIO, CANADA  
5580, 5610, 6220, 6250, 6270, 6290, 6310, 6330, 6360, 6380, 6400, 6420, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6490, 6510, 6540, 6560, 6580

June 5, 2020

**RE: 2020-2021 Exchange Year**

It is with a heavy heart that I announce Central States Rotary Youth Exchange is cancelling our 2020-2021 Long Term Exchange Program. We believe that we can no longer wait to decide because students, parents, partners, and Rotarians need to make plans for the coming year.

These are just a few items that we considered:

- We have no timeframe on when borders will open.
- It is unknown when Visas will be issued.
- Schools decisions to not accept inbound students. Others, will not provide an answer.
- Some schools will be operating virtually or with a very modified attendance schedule.
- Rotary Clubs and host families are unwilling to host.
- Our ability to provide a quality exchange for the students.
- Difficulty of international travel.
- Safety of our students and everyone associated with the program.

It was not an easy decision! Cancellation impacts both our outbound and inbound students who have worked so hard to make their exchange happen. We are very sad for the class of 2020-2021 and hope that many can join us for 2021-2022 exchange year.

Our focus now is to prepare for the 2021-2022 exchange year. It is our hope that our program will return stronger than ever. The commitment to our trading partners, Rotary clubs, students, parents, host families and the many volunteers will not waver, but return with new enthusiasm.

We wish to thank all those who have worked so hard to make CSRYE a great program. Your countless hours of giving to both the students, and program have not gone unnoticed.

This has been a challenging time for us all and has shown the value of the family of Rotary to weather any storm.

Yours in Rotary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Sheppard".

Brent Sheppard, Chair  
Central States Rotary Youth Exchange



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