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The Rotary Club of Ottawa

BILLETING OVERVIEW ROTARY ADVENTURE IN CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

The Rotary Club of Ottawa's Adventure in Citizenship 4-day program is designed to develop the leadership potential of outstanding senior high school students. It is an exceptional opportunity for the students to explore our Canadian identity, shared values and the implications of the freedoms we all enjoy as Canadians. While the program is focused on governmental processes and institutions at the federal level, it rests on the premise that the most important attributes of citizenship emerge from Canadians individually and collectively.

The Billeting Experience: For over sixty five years, over one hundred homes in Ottawa have opened to participants of Adventure in Citizenship. The Host Families learn about youth from different parts of Canada, the leadership potential of our young Canadians and Rotary's efforts to develop this leadership potential. Host Families continue to enjoy their experience and they support and praise the program. The Rotary Club of Ottawa is dedicated to continuing the billeting of students in order that they learn more about the citizens of Ottawa while enjoying our warm hospitality.

Our Philosophy: The Rotary Club of Ottawa has established a reputation as a community service organization, which sets high standards for its members and leaders. Additionally, the club pursues high standards in the programs and services it delivers. In an effort to ensure these standards are maintained, we introduced the "buddy system", a minimum of two same sex students in each Host Home. It is our aim to protect and encourage the development of youth and the good image of The Rotary Club of Ottawa. Host families are always on a referral basis. (Either known to a Rotarian or a trusted Host Family). References are obtained and checked. Police checks are a standard request.

Travelling to and from Ottawa:

Rotarians are on hand to meet the students upon arrival in Ottawa and introduce to them their Host Family who will also be in attendance. We are in constant awareness of flight, train, bus arrivals etc and always have a representative on-hand at the point of arrival. It is imperative that we are advised of any last minute changes from their documented



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arrival time or method. Whenever possible, we place students travelling from the same area on the same flight, and in close proximity to each other. Departures from Ottawa are also documented and we provide the necessary transportation to and from their point of departure.

Our Facebook page, allows the participants to converse with each other prior to their arrival in Ottawa. Often times those travelling on the same flight, train, etc can make meet up arrangements at the airport, train station etc.

The Host Families Responsibilities: The main responsibilities of a Host Family are to meet and welcome the young Adventurer upon their arrival, provide bed and breakfast and to ensure that our guests are transported to the morning assembly point and are picked up in the evening.

We also ask our Host Families for their consideration of the following items:

- ensure transportation is available at the beginning and end of the day's events and ensure that the students know that they are expected at their home shortly after the events finish:
- a separate bed, sleeping bag, etc. should be available for each student;
- ensure adult supervision when the student is in their home and also during any limited extra-curricular activities they may plan that involve the students;
- They are to consult with the students and be mindful of activities that might be considered unsuitable by the students' parents - for example, please be sensitive to the religious orientation of the student;
- Margot Nicholls, is to be notified if any student expects to visit relatives or other friends in this area while staying with their Host Family. Note that the students have been asked to arrange such visits before or after the program.

The students have a full, enjoyable and demanding program and extra-curricular activities may diminish their attention to the program. Students are requested to restrict themselves to the program activities while in the nation's capital. Your assistance in limiting extra curricular and unsupervised activities is requested.



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Your child will be advised of the Host Family name and contact number prior to their departure for Ottawa. You are at liberty to contact the Host Family for any reason.

It is always nice for child to express their appreciation to the Host Family by way of a thank you card upon their return home.

We hope this helps to answer your questions regarding our Billeting program. I am always happy to speak to you about your concerns. Our main number 613-860-1521 is manned throughout the program 24 hours a day. The students are also given this number to contact in case of any emergency situation.

Margot Nicholls Program Coordinator Rotary Adventure in Citizenship 613-860-1521