

## District 5580 Rotary Youth Exchange Article

One of Rotary's primary objectives is world peace. When first considering how to take steps towards this accomplishment, it can be overwhelming. However, there is something clubs can do that will make significant progress in this direction while at the same time providing a bountiful experience for club members and your community at the same time. What might that be you ask, participation in the youth exchange program.

For over 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. The goal of Rotary International Youth Exchange is to broaden world understanding which will lead to peace in the world. Each year, more than 80 countries and over 8,000 students (age 15 to 18) participate in this Rotary International program. Rotary Youth Exchange is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs. The Rotary Youth Exchange program is part of the fifth area of Rotary Service: New Generations.

District 5580 is one of 18 districts in Central States Rotary Youth Exchange (CSRYE), a multi-district youth exchange organization that supports long-term exchanges between outbound students in the U.S. and Canada and inbound students in over 40 countries. You can learn more about Central States Rotary Youth Exchange by visiting the website at [www.CSRYE.org](http://www.CSRYE.org).

District 5580 has been involved in Rotary Youth Exchange for many years. Your club may have hosted an inbound student or sponsored an outbound student at some time. Each year we have **outbound students** who are sponsored by one of the Rotary clubs to spend a year in another country and **inbound students** who come to our district to spend a year hosted by one of the Rotary clubs. This year District 5580 is sponsoring 10 outbound students and 14 inbound students. This means that 24 young people are having an experience that will change their lives because Rotary clubs in our district participate in Rotary Youth Exchange!

The list of countries outbound students are going to this year include Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Taiwan and Thailand. The home countries of this years inbound students include Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland and Thailand.

When a Rotary Exchange Student has returned home from a year in a different country, that student is called a **rebound student**. During the first year after exchange the sponsoring clubs invite the student to share their experiences as an exchange student. Rotary also helps the student to enter the world of rotary service by attending meetings with other exchange students where the rebound students can help the inbound students with the exchange year and by helping to prepare future outbound students for the exchange year.

District 5580 has a committee of dedicated volunteers that support the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rotary Club</b>	<b>Committee Role</b>
Blake Carlson	Crookston	Chair
Jean Hannig	Moorhead	Assistant Chair / Inbound Coordinator
Mary Durward	Duluth Harbortown	Outbound Coordinator
Eric Daniel	Grand Rapids Evening	Rebound Coordinator
Stephen Margarit	Thunder Bay-Port Arthur	Child Protection Officer Canada
Kirsten Addison	Bemidji	Child Protection Officer U.S.
Raul Fierro	Grand Rapids Evening	Rotex Coordinator
David Rossetter	North Shore	Member-At-Large

Members of clubs participating in Rotary Youth Exchange, are part of one of the best programs in Rotary International. One that goes a long way towards Rotary's objective of world peace!! Even if your club is not hosting an inbound exchange student, you can invite an inbound exchange student to your club from a neighboring club. Rotary Exchange Students love to share information about their host countries with Rotarians. Or you can invite a rebound exchange student to tell your club what it is like to spend a year in another country.

Outbound students make their application for participation in the program through the local club. The process for students going outbound 2016-17 begins this August. If you have a student interested in the outbound program, contact Mary Durward - [rotarymary@mdurward.com](mailto:rotarymary@mdurward.com). If your club is interested in hosting an inbound student contact Jean Hannig - [rotaryjean@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryjean@gmail.com).

If you have any questions contact me or any of the Youth Exchange Committee members so that your club can experience the world of Rotary Youth Exchange.

Submitted by Blake Carlson - Youth Exchange Chair for District 5580

# 2014-2015 YOUTH EXCHANGE PHOTOS



## Calendar for Rotary Youth Exchange District 5580

### Fall – Summer 2015 / 2016 for Outbounds in 2016 / 2017

September – October	Club Selection of Students
Friday, October 9, 2015	Preliminary Applications and Club Recommendations due to Outbound Coordinator
Saturday, October 17, 2015	District Interviews – Duluth, MN  Other possible interviews to be arranged in October
Monday, November 6, 2015	All applications from our District are due to District 5580 Outbound Coordinator
Mid-January, 2016	Notification of Preliminary Country Assignments
January 22 – 24, 2016	<b>MANDATORY WEEKEND</b> for all selected outbound (and inbound) students at Deep Portage Conservation Center in Hackensack, MN. \$750 Program Fee is due!
April 2016 (TBD)	Meeting with travel agent for outbound students and parents
May 12 - 14, 2016	<b>MANDATORY WEEKEND</b> for all outbound (and inbound) students at District Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota
July 7 – 10, 2016	<b>MANDATORY CONFERENCE</b> for all outbound students <b>AND at least one parent</b> at Calvin College in Grand Rapids Michigan
Late July – early September	Depart – Dates according to host country