

A pair of hands, palms facing each other, holding a world map. The map is spread across the fingers and palms, with the word 'WORLD' visible at the bottom left. The background is a cloudy sky.

10 REASONS TO PUT YOUR HAND UP TO HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

1- THE EXPERIENCE

You get to experience another culture without needing a passport. Hosting opens your minds to the world - everything from school to meals and seeing your town through the student's eyes provides opportunities to discover and appreciate diversity, lifestyles and attitudes in a different light.

2. SUPPORT

Rotary take the safety and security of our students very seriously. You will undertake a referee and character check along with a home visit to ensure you and your family environment is suitable to host. Further to this a club councillor will check in on both your family and the student and address any issues or concerns.

3. THE LENGTH

Every RYE student gets 3-4 host families meaning you will only be required to host for 3-4 months.

4. SHARING A CULTURE

From food to music, sport to interests - every exchange student brings their own culture and in turn allows you to share our Australian culture

5. THE NETWORK

Rotary is the most recognised and the only gold standard exchange program in the world. This brings with it a large network of volunteers that assist with ensuring your and the student's journey and experience is the best it can possibly be. On the flipside if it just isn't working, we have the systems in place to act and move quickly - you are never alone.

6. THE FAMILY

Many host families say that opening up the house up to an exchange student is one of the most rewarding things they have ever done. Some say it brought their families closer together others say they now have sons and daughters all over the world. Regardless many walk away much the richer. We just need more families willing to put their hands up and give it go

7. SUITABILITY

Just like it takes all types to be a Rotarian the same applies for host families. Single, full house, empty nesters, same-sex or blended families - as long as you can care for a student, give them love and security then you will be considered - you just need to ask!

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8. THE BOND

From getting a school uniform (most often for the first time) to learning to speak English (including understanding our slang!) and trying new things these activities are often entertaining and very engaging.

By treating them as one of your own you are giving them the opportunity to grow into a fantastic global citizen.

9. YOU BECOME PART OF A BIGGER FAMILY

Supported by the Rotary network you will be assisted through your journey. You will get opportunities to meet with other host families. Most of the Rotarians who you come into contact with are previous host families and can share much wisdom and advice on how to navigate the ins & outs of hosting.

10. THE COST

You are not required to assist with personal finances. RYE students are given a monthly allowance and their sponsor Rotary club will cover all associated school fees. You will only be responsible for the costs associated with having them in your home.

One of the most valuable lessons learned when you host an exchange student is that we have far more in common than we realise. Your daily routine becomes theirs and you find that at our core regardless of language or culture we are fundamentally alike and capable of building genuine, meaningful relationships with one another.

The Rotary wheel ensures you are giving a student an opportunity to become the best version of themselves to become leaders, innovators and motivators

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO CONSIDER BEING A HOST FAMILY - TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB OR

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