

Rotary District 5580 Youth Exchange Program

Participant Cost Projections for 20223 – 2024 (2024-2025 School Year)

Costs for participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program will vary greatly according to country placement and variable costs such as airfare, visas, insurance, language school costs, and personal student spending habits. All students are responsible for the following:

Application Fee - \$250 The District 5580 Rotary Youth Exchange Program requires a \$250 application fee for all candidates which must be paid on or before **November 4, 2022**.

Program Fee - \$ 750 District 5580 requires a \$750 fee for all students selected to participate in the Exchange program to cover the costs of the Rotary blazer, student / parent orientations, and other required student materials. **This fee is due at the January orientation.**

Rotary Health Insurance – Each student is required to purchase health insurance through the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange program. Insurance is required before you will be granted a visa by your host country. There are two possibilities, depending on whether the student is required to purchase an insurance plan in the host country.

1. The regular Central States insurance premium was about \$1,100.00 (insurance plus credit card processing fee) for students going outbound in 2022.
2. If you are placed in a country that requires in-country insurance, you must purchase that insurance **PLUS** the Central States insurance. In many cases, the in-country insurance is between \$500 and \$1,000. We have no control over the cost or requirements of insurance for our students by other countries, but we will strive to keep you informed of the requirements and costs.

Airfare and Visa Expenses – This will be your single largest expense. Air travel arrangements must be arranged through the official Rotary travel agent, and students ALWAYS travel on a one-year round-trip ticket. Recent costs of airfare for students from District 5580 in the US have ranged from \$2,000 to \$3,500. Most fares have been in the \$2,500 - \$3,000 range in recent years. Fares for Canadians were generally similar.

Visa fees generally ranged from \$100 to \$600 in recent years. In addition, many students are required to personally visit a Consulate in order to procure a visa. This may involve a separate trip to Chicago, New York, or Toronto. This depends on the requirements of the country in which you will be hosted. The cost of this trip is an additional expense paid by the student.

Language School / Inbound Orientation – Some countries require inbound students to attend a language camp and/or an orientation shortly after arrival. Sometimes this is free, but sometimes students must pay for it. The cost varies according to country and seems to range from \$300 - \$600.

Emergency Fund – Your host Rotary District will require you to have an emergency fund of **\$500**. Upon arrival, the club will hold this money for emergencies and return any unused portion of this fund to you at the end of the year.

Optional Excursions – These are a wonderful opportunity, but most are **optional**. Some trips are fairly inexpensive, and others may be fairly costly (in the range of \$2,000 - \$3,000) for extensive travel around Asia, South America, Europe, or other places.

Rotary Jacket, Cards, Pins, and Gifts – A Rotary jacket must be worn for this exchange program – navy blue for US students and red for Canadian students. This jacket is worn to Rotary functions throughout the exchange year, and is included in the program fee. We will take student measurements and have the jacket shipped to each student prior to the District Conference.

Students will also have business cards made to distribute to other students, friends, and Rotarians while abroad. Cards are included in the program fee.

Each student will also want to bring pins from their home area to exchange with other students and gifts for their host families. Pins and gifts are the responsibility of the student.

Spending Money – This will really vary according to your personal habits and needs. Some students spend a lot of additional money, and some don't spend huge amounts.

Rotary Allowance – Your host Rotary Club will be giving you a monthly stipend of generally between \$60 - \$120 per month. This is to help you with day-to-day expenses. They will also cover most school expenses.

Sample Cost Projection for Rotary Exchange including the optional country excursion:

Application & Program fees	\$1,000
Insurance Premium	\$1,200
Pins and Gifts	\$ 100
Airfare, Travel Agent, and Visa (average)	\$3,000
Spending Money (\$100 a month)	\$1,100
Optional Excursion	\$2,500
Emergency Fund	\$ 500
Total Cost	\$9,400