

Rotary District 5580 Youth Exchange Inbound Student Program

Rotary Motto: "Service Above Self"

Introduction:

Rotary's International Youth Exchange Programs promotes the Rotary goal of advancing international understanding, goodwill, and peace -- one student and one exchange at a time.

To start off with, it's important to understand what is meant by "inbound student". Inbound students come from countries outside of the US and Canada. They are "hosted" by Rotary clubs within the US and Canada. A club that "hosts" an inbound student is directly responsible for the student during their exchange.

Local Level Youth Administration:

- Club Host: local Rotary Club(s) host (including a financial commitment) the inbound student
- Club partners with local families who volunteer to house and supervise the inbound student
- Student typically rotates between three host families in one high school, over course of one academic year
- Ideally, clubs commit to hosting an inbound student by July for exchanges that would begin the Fall of the following year. However, clubs who commit as late as February of the year the exchanges begin, may also be able to get an inbound student

Each participating club assumes the following responsibilities:

- Identify host high school early (ideally Jan. of host exchange year): Assure school that Rotary is partner with the school, as well as with host families, in facilitating a successful exchange year for the student.
- Financial:
 - A portion of school lunches, \$40 per month
 - Monthly stipend (at least \$100)
 - At their discretion, a club may pay for additional school related costs such as activity fees, yearbooks, etc.
 - Average of \$2000 to \$2500 per year
- Identify and assist host families, provide orientation and support
- Provide two committed individuals to fulfill the following roles:
 - Youth Exchange Officer (YEO): serves as liaison between Rotary, high school and student ensuring Rotary rules implemented, host high school paperwork completed in timely manner for visa application, etc. YEO serves as contact for medical correspondence: Students carry excellent health insurance. Takes student to sports physical (and necessary/unscheduled doctor visits if available). Conducts monthly contact with student and host family to ensure successful exchange - reports contact into Central States Youth Exchange Database
 - Counselor: Serves as advocate for student. Visits each host family home after placement to ensure host family, as well as student, are doing well
 - It is possible for clubs to share a single YEO if they are in close enough proximity. In this case there would need to be a Rotarian willing to serve as a counselor

- Provides transportation for student to mandatory District level youth exchange events

Host Families:

- Online information <https://www.csrye.org/host-families/>
- Host family parents can be, but do not have to be Rotarians
- Provide room and board
- Assist student in becoming a part of the family, school, and community
- Treat the student like a member of the family, not as a guest
- Maintain communication with the local Rotary Club via Youth Exchange Counselor & YEO
- Assist with typical challenges: language acquisition, friendships, culture shock, local customs, etc.
- Encourage school-related activities (music, drama, sports, other clubs, etc.)
- Facilitate successful academic year: school attendance, missed academic work etc.
- Families with young children also make great host families. Need not have teenagers in the home
- Single parents/single adults of the same gender as student may serve as host families

The most effective host families are:

- Flexible and able to adapt to having someone new in the home
- Good humored and able to put a problem or situation into perspective
- Patient and willing to work through common misunderstandings
- Willing to engage in different activities and visit places outside the home
- Interested in a variety of topics of conversation, culture, and recreation

Youth Exchange Students:

- Students will be carefully selected and well prepared – Rotary attracts high quality students
- Students must be age 15.5 to 18.5 upon arrival in USA
- Students arrive August to September and Depart May-July
- Selected students are eager and excited to:
 - Learn language of host country; discover host culture, *represent their countries*; become part of a new host family and community