

District 5580 – Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound Student Applicants – Fall 2026



Costs for participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program will vary 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 - \$450 The District 5580 Rotary Youth Exchange Program requires a \$400 non-refundable application fee for all candidates which **must be paid along with their finalized application no later than November 18, 2026.**

Program Fee - \$ 1,500 District 5580 requires a \$1,500 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. Payment can be split into two payments, with the first due at January orientation, and the second by May 1, 2027.**

Rotary Health Insurance – Each student is required to purchase health insurance through the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange program. Insurance is required before you are 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 \$1,200.00 (insurance plus credit card processing fee) for students going outbound in 2026.
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 our Rotary Youth Exchange travel agency, It's Your World, Travel! Students ALWAYS travel on a one-year round-trip ticket. It's Your World will help families with Visa processing. This process can sometimes require an in person visit to a Consulate to procure a visa. Costs are different for each specific situation based on country assignment, but total cost for airfare and visa processing have recently been approximately \$3,500-4,000.

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 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.

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. Students will also be expected to bring business cards with their personal contact information to provide to Rotary contacts, friends and other students. We have a template created to assist in the creation.

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	\$1,950
Insurance Premium	\$1,200
Pins, Gifts and Business Cards	\$ 200
Airfare, Travel Agent, and Visa (average)	\$4,000
Spending Money (\$100 a month)	\$1,100
Optional Excursion	\$2,500** (not included in total below)
Emergency Fund	\$ 500
 Total Cost	 \$8,900**

Payments due and expected timelines:

\$450 Application fee due with finalized application on or before November 18th, 2026.

\$1500 Program fee due in January. Can be split into 2 payments, made in January and May as needed.

Insurance, Airfare and Visa expenses will be charged directly by the providers and are usually paid in the spring of the exchange year (March through June).