

Rotary



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Rotary Youth Exchange

The Vital Host Club Role

District 5910

**A Summary of Host Club Participation*

Committee, etc. – While it is possible for one Rotarian in a club to manage most of the youth exchange program for the club, the work is easier and more fun if a committee is appointed to share the various responsibilities.

A **Rotary Counselor (Local Coordinator)** is required for the student, and 2-3 host families must be selected, vetted and oriented. The first family should be selected well ahead of the student's arrival, but others may be determined later in the year. The Counselor serves all year as the student's advocate, but he/she also represents host families in any negotiation between a student and the host family. The Counselor also serves as liaison between the student and the club. Indeed, the Counselor is the host club's representative in most matters related to the student – a very key appointment.

A **Club Youth Exchange Officer-Club YEO** (= RYE Committee Chair) is also required for the club. This person is usually the "Club Contact" for the District Youth Exchange Committee and assists the Counselor where needed.

The **Club Rotary Counselor and the Club YEO** can share the duties for enrolling the student in school, for setting up a bank account for the student, for supervising his/her travel, and for moving the student from one host family to another.

Relation to the District RYE Committee – Exchange agreements are made by Rotary districts, and the District 5910 RYE Committee assists host clubs with all matters related to hosting a student. It provides orientation and regular check-up meetings for all students and handles paperwork with cooperating districts, RI and the USA State Department.

In turn, the host club is responsible for insuring that their student follows RI and district rules for inbound students, for such matters as getting their student to district meetings (such as for Orientation and the District Conference) and for reporting information about host families and the student's location.

Cost – Host clubs furnish their student with a monthly allowance of \$100 per month and usually a few incidentals. Thus, for a normal 10 month stay, the total cost for the year is usually about \$1100-1200.

*Detailed handbooks are available from the District RYE Committee to assist clubs in hosting Rotary Youth Exchange Students.