

Safety First

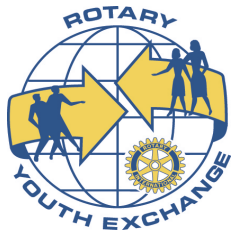
Rotary's Youth Protection Program

Inbound Presentation



Safety First

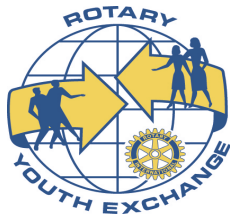
What risks might you face while studying abroad?



- Theft
- Illness or Injury
- Accident
- Travel difficulties
- Harassment
- Natural disaster
- Political Unrest
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Physical/sexual/emotional abuse

Safety First

How are these risks different from risks at home?



- You have these risks, in varying degrees when you are at home
- As a “foreigner” you might look different from the local population and might be seen as vulnerable and a possible target for theft or violence

Safety First

How are these risks different from risks at home?

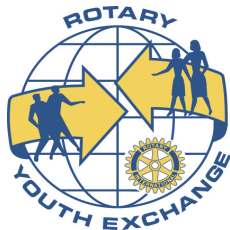


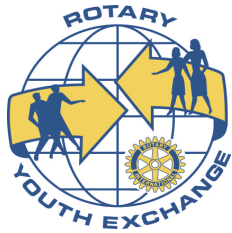
- Because you are unfamiliar with your environment, you might not be able to assess risks as well as you might at home, and you may find it more challenging to get help when necessary
- As a confident young adult, you may be more prone to putting yourself in riskier situations because you think you can “handle it”

Safety First

How are these risks different from risks at home?

- Typically, Youth Exchange Students are successful young people who may experience feelings of failure if they need to seek help for problems such as illness or abuse.



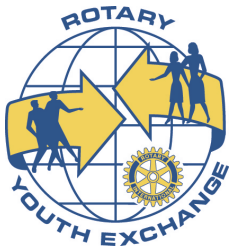


Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact.

Safety First

Who shares
the
responsibility
for keeping
Youth
Exchange
students safe?



Youth Exchange Support System (Club Level)

- Club President
 -
- Club Youth Exchange Officer
 -
- Club Youth Exchange Counselor
 -
- Host families
- Parents
- Students

Safety First

Who shares
the
responsibility
for keeping
Youth
Exchange
students safe?

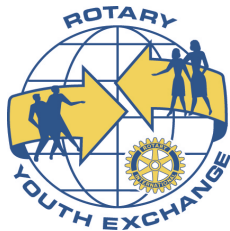


Youth Exchange Support System (District Level)

- District Governor
 - Tom Robitaille (thr@cogeco.ca)
- District Governor Elect
 - Don Moore (dinty@wightman.ca)
- District Youth Exchange Chair
 - Claire Sherwin
(D6330rotaryYEP@gmail.com).
- District Youth Protection Officer
 - Michele Parkin
(D6330rotaryYPO@gmail.com)
- District Counselor
 - Dr. Rosanne Field (rfield@hurontel.on.ca)

Safety First

How Rotary
selects your
host family
and keeps in
touch



- Host Family Application
- Host Family Interview
- Host Home Visit (initial and random)
- Host Family References
- Host Family Police Checks (everyone over 18)
- Hosting is not mandatory or paid
- Youth Exchange Officer/Counselor
- District Committee members

Safety First

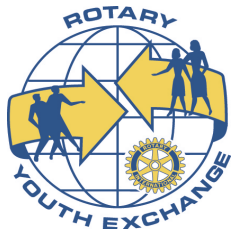
How can you contribute to your safety while studying abroad?



- **Behave** more cautiously than at home
- Always **be aware** of your surroundings
- **Learn** about **the** host **culture** to better understand how young people are expected to behave
- **Recognize** that adjusting to life in a new country has its **ups and downs**

Safety First

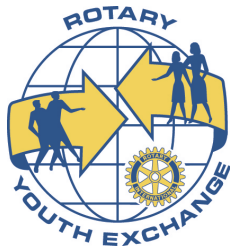
How can you contribute to your safety while studying abroad?



- Make an effort to **learn the language** of the host country early on. (A good phrase to know is “I need help”)
- **Choose friends wisely**, who enjoy safe, positive activities
- **Join** school or community **groups**
- Meet regularly with Rotary Counselors to **discuss all concerns**
- **Make sure someone responsible knows where you are at all times!**

Safety First

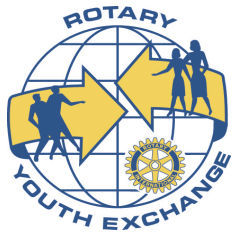
Why do Youth Exchange Students need specialized training in abuse and harassment?



- Whether you are at home or abroad, young people are always at risk for incidents of abuse and harassment
- Abuse and harassment ***prevention is based on awareness***...which is why talking about it today is a good idea.

Safety First

What types of behaviour do you consider to be abuse or harassment?



- General Abuse or Harassment
 - Unwelcome or degrading remarks or jokes
 - Discriminatory (racist, sexist, demeaning or offensive material)
 - Verbal abuse or threats
 - Offensive gestures
 - Physical assault
- Sexual Abuse or Harassment
 - sexual advances or requests for sexual favours
 - verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
 - Sexist jokes, pornographic or sexist materials
 - Unwanted touching / sexual assault

Scenario 1

Selena's host father often comes up behind her and rubs her shoulders when she is watching tv or working on the computer. This makes her uncomfortable. Should she tell her youth exchange counselor?

Scenario 2

When ever Jamal meets his host mother's sister, she hugs him tightly and touches him on the arms. It makes him uncomfortable. Should he tell his host mother or father?

Scenario 3

Claudette is shy and doesn't like to dress in front of the other girls after gym class. All the other girls walk around with no clothes on and some have started teasing Claudette about being a "prude". Claudette feels bad when this happens. Is this abuse or harassment?

Safety First

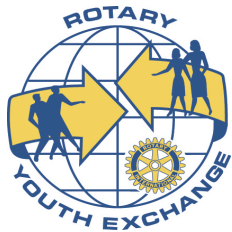
Do cultural differences need to be considered in assessing whether a behaviour is harassing or abusive?



- Values and norms differ country to country
 - appropriate dress
 - how people interact in a relationship
 - personal space
 - eye contact
 - Whistling
 - Acceptable gestures (pointing, crossing legs, winking)

Safety First

Why is it important to understand the cultural values and norms in your host country?



- So you don't offend others
- So you don't get offended by the actions of others
- So you can distinguish between a "normal" behaviour in the culture and inappropriate behaviour
- Still...if something someone is doing is making you feel "uncomfortable" discuss it with someone in your Rotary Support Network.

Safety First

Homework

(don't forget to pick up your copy of this presentation)

- Write down contact info for people in your District and Club Support Systems and ensure you know where to find it. Be sure to meet these people so you know who they are.
- Talk with your host parents about concerns you or they may have. Learn to be comfortable talking about your worries.
- Study the language, culture and community of your host country and be prepared to avoid risks and seek assistance as needed.