



District 7080 Canada Youth Exchange Manual

Chapter 1

Introduction

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is one of Rotary's most popular programs to promote international understanding and develop lifelong friendships. It has its origins in 1929. Since then the program has expanded around the world. In recent years more than 7,000 young people have participated annually in Rotary-sponsored student exchange programs.

Rotary Youth Exchange offers young people interesting opportunities to live in and become a part of the culture of another part of the world. Students are expected to spend a full year abroad.

Rotary Youth Exchange is a highly recommended program for all Rotary clubs as a practical activity for the enhancement of international understanding and goodwill.

WHAT IS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL?

Rotary International is an association of over 1,200,000 Rotarians in more than 33,000 Rotary Clubs in over 200 countries and geographical regions around the world. It is an organization of business and professional persons, united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

For purposes of administration and the furtherance of some programs like RYE, clubs are grouped into districts. A district usually has about 50 clubs. We are in Rotary International District 7080.

A Rotary Club is a local group of men and women who meet weekly, each member representing a different profession or vocation. While the structure and constitution of each club is determined by Rotary International, each club pursues its own course in advancing the objects of Rotary. The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is one of many international programs which include International Scholarships, Group Study Exchanges, Vocational Exchanges and many medical and humanitarian projects in underdeveloped countries.

RYE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. To further international goodwill and understanding by enabling young people to experience firsthand some of the accomplishments and challenges of people in other lands.
2. To enable students to advance their learning experiences by studying for a year in an environment different to their own and to undertake courses of study not normally available to them in secondary schools in their own country.
3. To broaden their own outlook by learning to live with people of different cultures, creeds and colours, and having to cope with day-to-day problems in an environment different from that at home.
4. To act as ambassadors of their country, by conducting themselves in a fashion that will bring honour to their country, community, sponsoring Rotary club, and family, by imparting as much knowledge as they can of their country and its culture to the people they meet during the year abroad, and by addressing Rotary Clubs, community organizations and youth groups in their host country.
5. To study and observe all facets of life and culture in their host country so that on their return to their home country they can pass on the goodwill, understanding and knowledge they have gained.