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ROTARY DISTRICT 5440 USA

IMPORTANT YOUTH EXCHANGE INFORMATION OUTBOUND STUDENT APPLICATION MATERIALS

TO: Club Youth Exchange Officers
FROM: Dirk Miller, District 5440 Youth Exchange Chair
DATE: August 24, 2025
SUBJECT: **Year-Long Outbound Youth Exchange Student Materials – 2026-2027 School Year**

Cowboy Country Rotary Youth Exchange is pleased to announce the application process for students wishing to go outbound on exchange in the 2026-2027 school year. **Please read this memo carefully** and contact me if you have any questions.

All clubs wishing to participate in Youth Exchange are required to comply with the Cowboy Country Youth Exchange Youth Protection Policy. Clubs must have executed the Club Compliance Agreement and have volunteers involved in the program trained on Youth Protection.

Once your club has selected one or more students to sponsor, please email the name and email address of those students to me. I will send them a link to the full long-term application, along with instructions for completing the form and supporting documents. You will be copied on the email(s) going to students you sponsor. Please review those instructions so you are familiar with the requirements and are better able to assist the students. Please emphasize to the students that they must check their email frequently. I would like to have your student contact information as soon as it is available but no later than October 1.

Student deadlines remain the same as in the past. All application materials must be received no later than October 31, 2025. Along with the online application, they will receive additional instructions and forms that must be completed. We ask that they complete the online form by October 12 because that submission will trigger an email that provides them access to the various supporting documents (medical, dental, country selection, etc.) and the request for school references. They will need time to complete the forms along with any needed follow up. With all these forms and requisite appointments, it is critical that they complete the initial online application promptly.

This is an academic year exchange, meaning a student from another country will be attending the applicant's school while the student is abroad. Schools must agree to allow a foreign high school student to enroll in student's school as counterpart to the applicant. Please check with school officials for any requirements or conditions for foreign student enrollment in your school such as age limit, number of school years completed, language requirements, etc. The student will receive a form that requires a signature from your school principal acknowledging the school will accept an exchange student.

Additional information regarding sponsoring an outbound student can be found on the district website (<http://www.rotary5440.org>). Click on the “Youth Programs” icon near the top of the page, then “Year-long Youth Exchange Program,” then “Club Youth Exchange Officers” and finally “Outbound Students”. You can access the “Short (Club) Application” and “Club Interview Questions” for your local evaluation of any interested student(s) here. Complete details on the application process are on the “Outbound Application Process” page (<http://rotary5440.org/SitePage/outbound-application-process>).

The sponsoring club should help the student complete the application, if necessary. Any forms requiring original signatures will need to be completed by the student (except for the signatures), printed out and signatures obtained. Your Youth Exchange Club Participation Agreement should be submitted to Terry Collins. In addition to uploading a copy of every form online, one copy of all forms except the guarantee form which requires 2, should be submitted to Kellie by the student (fully described in the student instructions).

We are continuing with the flat fee payment system for the 2026-2027 exchange year, similar to most other districts in the country. The total fee is \$6,200, with an initial application fee of \$800. A description of items included with that fee is available on our web site. \$100 is refundable to the student if they successfully complete their exchange and attend a Rebound Orientation to be held early in August 2027, after their return from exchange.

Applications, support documents, and application fee (as described on the application submission checklist) shall be received by the District Committee no later than October 31, 2024. Failure to have the completed application and fee to the District Committee by this date may jeopardize the student’s acceptance to the program. Promptness and receipt of a complete application packet requiring no follow-up is a factor in the final selection and country placement process.

Mandatory District Interviews. The student and both parents are required to be interviewed by the District Youth Exchange Committee. Besides assuring the student is qualified for the exchange, Rotary International policies and US Department of State regulations require this interview. The District interview will be held Saturday, December 6, 2025 in Cheyenne, Wyoming at Laramie County Community College.

If the student or YEO encounter any difficulties with the electronic application process they should contact me (dirkdmiller@gmail.com or by phone at: 307-274-2812).

The completed application packet and payment shall be mailed to:

Kellie Kegerreis, Rotary District 5440
Cowboy Country Youth Exchange
9200 Meadow Farms Dr
Milliken, CO 80543
970-302-4724 (phone)
rotary5440@yahoo.com

Thank you for all you do for youth exchange. Without you as a member of the team we could not provide this wonderful opportunity to the youth in our District! Please contact me if you have any problems or concerns.