



ROTARY DISTRICT 5440

SUMMER YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION ROTARY ANNOUNCES SUMMER YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

(Updated August 31, 2017)

Are you a student who will be between 15 and 19 years of age next summer, who is of good character and reputation, and has above average academic ability and an outgoing, pleasant personality? Do you know such a student? Do they want to expand their horizons and learn about the world outside the USA? They can now apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange Summer Program. Currently, Rotary organizes summer exchanges with many countries, including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey.

The program involves pairing a high school student (15 to 19 years old) with a student from a foreign country. The American student spends from three to four weeks living with a host family abroad who has a student of the same age and gender and the two students then return together to the United States and spend a similar period in the American student's home (or the US student may host first and then travel abroad). Each student's family is responsible for the cost of travel and insurance for their student and must agree to host the foreign student in their home for a period of three to four weeks.

The program is a unique way for a student to travel abroad, to see a foreign country through the eyes of a local family, to learn about local customs, and to experience the local culture. In a few weeks they will learn more than a tourist would and make a lifelong foreign friend as well.

Applications are now being accepted through _____ by the Rotary Club of _____. *(Insert your club's internal deadline – remember that full application packets are due to the district on January 15, 2018 and that many students will wait until the last minute to apply).* Contact *name of club member responsible* for more information and an application form at *email of club member responsible* or *phone number of club member responsible*.

An in-home interview will be scheduled and if the student and their family successfully pass the interview, the student will be given additional documents to complete. The entire application packet must be submitted to the Rotary District Youth Exchange Chairperson before January 15, 2018. Children of Rotarians are eligible as well as children of non-Rotarian families.