



# ROTARY DISTRICT 5440 SUMMER YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

## INFORMATION SHEET

(August 29, 2017)

### **WHAT IS IT?**

A family to family cultural visitation program between a student in this District and a foreign student. A student from this District will visit a student and family in another country for approximately 3 to 4 weeks and the foreign student then visits the student and family in this District for approximately 3 to 4 weeks, during the months of June through August. This exchange can occur in reverse order.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

1. Rotary Summer Youth Exchange Students should be high school students between the ages of 15 and 19.
2. Applicants must be of good character and reputation.
3. Applicants must have above average academic ability and must have an outgoing and pleasant personality to fit them for the role as an ambassador for the United States. They must have the ability to accept discipline and be capable of adjusting to new situations.
4. Sons and daughters of Rotarians are eligible for Youth Exchange but receive no special preference in selection. All applicants are selected solely on merit.
5. The applicant's family **MUST** be willing to host and have the time necessary to appropriately host the matched student.
6. Family members over the age of 18 who are living in the home will be required to undergo and pass a background check in order to ensure the safety of all exchange students.

### **OUTBOUND STUDENT/FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Sending family is responsible for Rotary application fee (\$130), transportation (average plane fare is approximately \$1600), spending money (usually ~\$300), clothes, health insurance (~\$165), all medical expense, etc.
2. Visa requirement depends on the country, but a passport is always required.
3. Ability and desire to experience a foreign language.
4. Ability to leave family and friends for a month.
5. Willingness to learn about other people's customs, try other kinds of food, and take part in different activities.
6. Ability to compromise, make decisions on their own, and laugh at themselves when they do something others may think silly or inappropriate.
7. Ability to handle day-to-day challenges and frustrations, occasional loneliness, tolerate attitudes, ideas and values that are different from their country.
8. Sending family and matched student will host the reciprocal exchange student in their home for an equal period of time. Ideally, hosting should include some regional sightseeing. (see Inbound Students)

9. Outbound students and their parents are **required** to attend an orientation in Douglas, Wyoming on April 7, 2018.
10. All family members age 18 and over who reside in the home must submit to and pass a background check.

### **INBOUND STUDENTS:**

1. Each student/family will host the reciprocal exchange student in their home for an equal period of time. Ideally, hosting should include some regional sightseeing.
2. The inbound student's family is responsible for their student's transportation, spending money, clothes, health insurance, all medical expenses, etc.
3. It is not essential that the host parent be a Rotarian.
4. Host families must undertake to supervise the student as if he/she were their own son/daughter.
5. Inbound student must be included in all family activities and treated as a family member.
6. Assist with general household chores, keeping room tidy, lawn mowing, washing the car, etc. He/she is not to be used as a constant baby sitter.
7. Student is expected to adapt to the discipline of the host family.
8. All other guidelines in the Youth Exchange Handbook, except as specifically noted and except those that relate directly to school attendance, shall apply to the Summer Youth Exchange Program.

### **TAKE A STEP FORWARD**

A complete application includes:

1. **STEP Application checklist**
2. **STEP Country Preference Form**
3. **STEP Application**
4. **STEP Rules Form**
5. Copy of existing **passport** or proof of application for a passport.
6. A filing fee of \$130.00, payable by the student's family to District 5440 Youth Exchange. Half will be refunded, if no placement is made. There is no refund if the student withdraws.

**Deadline for complete application packet to be received by District Short-Term Youth Exchange Chair is January 15, 2018 for exchange in the summer of 2018.** Our goal is to have all students matched by April 1, 2017, if not earlier.

All application materials can be found at: <http://rotary5440.org/SitePage/summer-youth-exchange> or by clicking on the "Summer YE program" link on the Rotary District 5440 Website: <http://rotary5440.org>.