



rotary
youth
exchange

District 7790

*Short-Term Exchange
Program (STEP)*

*Dana Delano: D7790 STEP Chair-Maine
Houlton Rotarian*

Rotary Youth Exchange

- Youth Exchange is one of Rotary International's structured programs designed to help clubs and districts achieve their service goals in their own communities and in communities abroad, fostering fellowship and goodwill in the process.



Program History

- Conducted by Rotary International since 1929 in Europe
- First United States exchange took place between U.S. and Latin America in 1939.
- Youth Exchange became an **official program** of RI in 1972.
- Has grown to involve over 60 countries and sponsors over 8,000 students per year.
- District 7790 has participated in the program for over 30 years.

RI Avenues of Service

We channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

- **•Club Service** focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
- **•Vocational Service** calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society. Learn more in *An Introduction to Vocational Service and the Code of Conduct*.
- **•Community Service** encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest. Learn more in *Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects*.
- **•International Service** exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.
- **•Youth Service** recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and **Rotary Youth Exchange**.

Youth Exchange Goals

The primary goal of Rotary Youth Exchange is providing young people with opportunities to experience a cultural exchange and to develop as leaders who promote peace and justice around the world. To achieve this, everyone involved in an exchange — including students , parents, and volunteers — must be open-minded, tolerant, and supportive of one another.

Youth Exchange Goals

- Youth act as ambassadors for their club, community, state, and country.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Develop and foster good communication skills.
- Develop a greater sense of maturity, independence, and responsibility.

Youth Exchange Goals

- Provides young people with the opportunity to experience cultures other than their own
- Gives participants a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves
- Gain a better understanding of the basic needs we all share and the diversity that makes each culture unique
- Advances international understanding and world peace

Youth Exchange Facts

- More than 8,000 students participate each year in over 60 countries.
- 86% of all Rotary districts participate in the Youth Exchange program.
- Rotary Youth Exchange is an affordable exchange program.
- Rotary Youth Exchange is open to students of Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike.

Why *Rotary* Student Exchanges

- It is *volunteer* driven by people who want the best for youth world-wide.
- The operation of the program is done at several levels: local, district, regional and international.
- Rotary works hard to give quality exchanges to students and match students in the best possible way.

Benefits of Student-Exchange

- Being away in a foreign country has a powerful broadening and accelerating effect on the maturation process
- Students learn how to better manage finances
- Youth develop a better decision-making process
- Youth develop confidence in themselves and their ability to “survive” on their own.

Benefits of Student-Exchange

- Youth develop a deeper understanding and tolerance of other cultures and personalities.
- Youth broaden their leadership skills
- Youth better develop their communication skills , including interpersonal communication and public speaking skills.
- Youth is exposure to a foreign language.

“This experience has made me more independent and flexible to adapt to new things and different scenarios”

Regina Alesi, Argentina

Quote taken from Rotary Magazine, October 2023

Two Types of Exchanges

- Long Term:
 - For an entire school year
 - Student lives with families of host club
 - Not a family-to-family exchange
- Short Term:
 - Typically, 3 - 4 weeks in each country
 - 6 – 8 weeks total during summer break
 - Family to family exchange

Today, we are exploring

**SHORT-TERM Exchange Program
(STEP) ONLY.**

District 7790

Province of Quebec:

- We have a Long-Term Exchange Chair
- We are seeking a Short-Term Youth Exchange **Chair!!**

STEP Guidelines

- Youth ages 15-19 years old (High School Sophomores – Seniors)
- Students who are of good character and demonstrate maturity
- Well-mannered students who can express oneself clearly and effectively
- Socially and emotionally ready to handle living abroad for an extended period
- Above-average academically
- Children of Rotarians and non-Rotarians are equally eligible

Short-Term Exchange Details

- Duration: 3 to 4 weeks abroad + same here
- In the summer when school is not in session
- Student(s) and their families are matched together (family to family exchange)
- Matched students are together for both exchanges
- The timing of the exchange depends on each of the families and the Rotary Clubs.
- For example: D7790 Rotary student goes to France for 3-4 weeks, student returns and hosts the French student for 3-4 weeks

Where Can They Go for Short Term Exchanges

- Rotary will not send a student to a country that is in the midst of political unrest, or one that is unsafe.
- Rotary will make an attempt to send the student to one of their top **three** choices of countries.
- Rotary must make the exchanges where there are students who are willing to come to the United States and/or Canada.

Where Can They Go for Short-Term Exchanges

EUROPE

Austria
Belgium
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Iceland
Italy
Poland
Netherlands
Spain
Switzerland

ASIA

India
Japan
South Korea
Taiwan

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil
Ecuador

NORTH AMERICA

Canada
Mexico

Individual Club Y-E Program and Process

- Club Youth Exchange Chair (s)
 - Lead the program
 - Understand and administer RI and district rules and regulations
 - Handle applications and work with District Chair to find suitable match
 - Monitor program and exchange students and parents
 - Attend District YE meetings.

Individual Club Y-E Program and Process

- Club Youth Exchange Committee (3-6 members)
 - Set up parameters for the club program
 - Set up club process for choosing exchange students
 - Interview applicants and families
 - Promote program in your schools and Rotary club

Individual Club Y-E Program and Process

- Bulk of the 'work/fun' is in the FALL
- Promote exchange program to students and schools
 - September and early October.
 - Meet with school principals, guidance counselors, language teachers, and possibly attend school assembly.
- Schedule a Youth Exchange Information Event
 - To include interested students and at least one parent.
 - In person or Zoom.
 - Review program, application, and application process.

HOULTON ROTARY CLUB

Are you interested in learning about a new culture and meeting new people? Rotary Youth Exchange is the opportunity of a lifetime for more than 8,000 students each year. By sharing your own culture and embracing a new one, you help foster global understanding and learn a great deal about yourself and a new culture in the process.

For over 20 years, Houlton Rotary Club has sponsored students ages 16 to 18 in this international program. We have changed lives and opened minds to new and exciting foods, languages, history, and customs in over a dozen different countries.

This is a short-term summer exchange, matching our student with a student from a country of your choosing. You live and experience their family and culture, then reciprocate with a foreign brother or sister staying in your home and visiting your community. The total exchange lasts six to eight weeks from late June – August.



SHORT-TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE INFORMATION NIGHT

Who: Student and at least one
Parent or guardian.

When: **Monday October 16, 2023**
6:30 – 8:00pm

Where: Houlton Regional Hospital
Education Center, 3rd Floor.

This is a **MANDATORY MEETING** for any student/family interested in participating in the Youth Exchange program. Learn about the history of the program, expectations, application process, financial responsibilities and more.

See you on **Monday October 16, 2023.**

Christy Fitzpatrick – Co-STEP Chair
Dana Delano – Co-STEP Chair
Houlton Rotary Club
christy.k.fitzpatrick@gmail.com
danadelano@yahoo.com

Individual Club Y-E Program and Process

- Collect completed applications from interested students
 - Typically provide 2 weeks to complete
- Schedule individual interviews with Students and families
 - Typically, early to mid-November
 - Youth Exchange committee members
 - Plan 30 minutes with student and 20 minutes with parents/families (Parents and siblings)
- Choose and/or accept your student(s) !!!!!

What Happens Next?

- Home visit by YEO. (May happen before selection process)
- Complete background checks for parents and siblings over 18 years of age living in the home.
- Work with Eastern States Student Exchange (ESSEX)
 - To complete application and paperwork
 - Locate a Student Match in a preferred country choice
 - Matches made in February or March.
- Work with students to:
 - Apply for passport, if needed
 - Apply for a VISA, if needed
 - Obtain CISI-Bolduc Medical Insurance Policy
- Attend a **MANDATORY** orientation
 - Typically, the first weekend in May in central Maine.
 - Student, parents, and YEO or committee member.

What Does Rotary Do to Keep Students Safe?

- Rotary closely monitors what is happening in the regions of the countries in which it exchanges.
- All host families must go through an extensive background check process to ensure safety.
- Rotarians who serve as YEO's also must participate in the background check process.
- Rotary also complies with U.S. State Department and Global Affairs Canada regulations for exchange.

What Does an Exchange Cost

- Round Trip airfare: \$1500 - \$1800
- Application fee: \$175
- District fee: \$350
- Short-Term Health and Life insurance policy: \$100
- Visa application fees, if needed
- Rotary Youth Exchange apparel: No Cost

What Does an Exchange Cost

- A passport - Student
 - Spending money
 - Gifts for Host Family
 - One parent needs a passport
-
- Total cost in the range of \$2500 – \$3,000 US per Student.



What Does an Exchange Cost YOUR Club?

- That is up to you; your Rotary Board, and Youth Exchange Committee.
- Rotary Club of Houlton pays for everything except airline luggage costs, passports, spending money, and gifts.
- Rotary Club of Caribou offers each student \$1,000 plus orientation fee cost.
- Other clubs offer something 'different'. We can simply be a vehicle for a safe and fantastic Exchange.
 - Fund raise for the program

Rotary Youth Exchange Changes Lives

- Students, Families, Friends, AND Club Members
 - Students come back a new person. Strong, independent, and confident.
 - Colleges LOVE students that have exchange experience!
 - Students (and parents) become attached to Rotary!
 - It is not only about the exchange student. This experience touches the lives of family, friends, classmates, and Rotarians.
 - It is a pleasure to meet exchange students visiting our club each year and to hear the presentations from the local students after they return.

Rotary Youth Exchange Changes Lives

- Join the FUN and help to change lives!!
- Your return on investment in time, energy, and club funding is immeasurable. The reward is truly heart-warming and immense!!
- Be a part of the RI's ***youth empowerment movement...***
be a part of the
Short-Term Youth Exchange Program in District 7790 !!



THANK YOU

LET'S TALK!!!

Dana Delano

D7790 STEP Chair - Maine

danadelano.7790rye@gmail.com

207-521-1713

