

Dear Rotary Club:

Are you looking for ways to add fun and excitement to your club and attract new members? Do you want to provide an opportunity for qualified high school students in your area (including those in your members' families) to study abroad and, in turn, serve as a hosting club for foreign students, resulting in a beautiful cultural exchange and promotion of world peace one person at a time? The Youth are the next generation of volunteers, the Rotarians that will follow us in Rotary. One way to engage in these concepts is to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program, which has been in existence for approximately 50 years and, in recent years, has included more than 9,000 students per year.

The **Long-Term Exchange Program (LTEP)** is a school year program usually beginning in mid to late August and concluding the following June or early July.

The youth exchange program operates in a continuum. In August, the inbound students arrive. From the beginning of school through mid-October, students interested in going outbound the following August submit their applications for club and District interviews. While the inbound students are here, the outbound applicants participate in three District orientations to prepare for their exchange. In June/July, the inbound students return to their home countries, and in August our 5840 students depart for their exchange. Then, it is time to begin the next round. The results of all this include new, lasting friendships and a better understanding of the international aspect of Rotary International.

The Club's Responsibilities:

If sending/sponsoring Outbound students (*i.e.* US students):

- Interview and select suitable prospective students; and
- Prove club banners to the student to be presented to hosting clubs abroad.

If hosting Inbound students (*i.e.* foreign students):

- Select a club Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) and a Counselor, who will receive mandatory Rotary International (RI) and Department of State (DOS) training, be the student's advocate, and cooperate with the RYE District Committee to facilitate the exchange;
- Recruit and select 2-3 host families for each student and, with the support of the District Committee, make sure they are vetted and trained in RI and DOS rules. Host families may include both Rotarian and non-Rotarian families. It is not uncommon for a Club to acquire members from these host families as they learn about Rotary;
- Invite the student to regular meetings and club activities. In many situations, the student presents weekly reports at regular Rotary Club meetings;
- Provide to the student a cell phone to use during the exchange and a monthly stipend of at least \$100; and
- Pay to the RYE District Committee a fee (approximately \$600) to cover the cost of sending the student to a RYE conference in Tulsa, OK in January of each year.
- Follow all Rotary rules and protocols related to youth exchange.

Please consider participating in RYE and making an impact on the youth of the world! Join the fun!

Very truly yours,

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