APPLICATION PROCESS

STYE forms are submitted on line through a secured portal. Local Rotary Clubs and District leaders will help the student and family complete the necessary forms.

Once approved, the application will be shared through the Youth Exchange Portal.

The local Rotary Club must approve each application and may interview the student to help in that process. The local Rotary Club will also conduct a home visit to assure that the applicant's home is adequate for the hosting of the foreign student with whom the applicant will be paired for exchange.

The District may request further information and/or an interview with the student and family before or after initial approval of the application.

Once the fully completed application is submitted and approved, we will initiate contacts with Rotary Districts in destination countries by February 1 or as soon as fully completed applications are received; We would hope to confirm the availability of an exchange "match" by April 1.

NOTE: Rotary cannot guarantee that there will be a host or match for every applicant!

CLUB SUPPORT

The Rotary Club's role as sponsor is to promote the availability of Rotary's Long- & Short-Term Youth Exchange opportunities; to screen candidates and determine whether they would serve as appropriate ambassadors of good will representing Club, community and country; to determine whether the student's household is also an appropriate home to host the inbound Exchange Student. The Club is to have a Youth Exchange Officer within the Club to serve as our contact persons; to assure that the application is fully completed before it is submitted to the District Committee; and to provide contact support as needed throughout the application and exchange process.

Some Clubs provide financial assistance, or local gifts or Club Banners for students to take with them. The Club is encouraged to host the outbound student to present their intended Program to the Club before their departure, and to pre-arrange a meeting date to host both students while the foreign student is visiting.

Rotary Exchange Programs offer students, families and Rotarians an extraordinary opportunity to share a truly international experience!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact:

YOUR LOCAL CLUB

Or Email RotarySTEP6420@gmail.com

Rev. 9-29-13

Dist. 6420
Rotary
Illinois, USA

DISTRICT 6420 SHORT TERM INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR SUMMER WITH A STUDENT FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY

FOUR WEEKS HERE....

FOUR WEEKS THERE …

…the experience of a lifetime!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to Rotary International's "flagship" **Long Term Youth Exchange** Program, in which a student spends one year abroad, Rotary District 6420 also sponsors **Short Term Youth Exchange** opportunities to experience the culture of another country, paired with a foreign student, each to spend half the summer with the other in that student's home and country.

WHO, WHAT, WHEN ....

Participants must be **age 15-19** at the time of the exchange, arranged during the summer months so that each student can spend **four weeks** with the other student and his/her family during both students' summer break.

...& WHERE ??

YOU PICK! Students select the countries with which they would wish for Rotary to arrange an exchange match, prioritizing their list. We endeavor to provide a match with their top choice, if possible. We suggest that selections for this program be limited to countries in the northern hemisphere, so that exchanging students' school summer vacation schedules are similar. Participants should have – or should be prepared to quickly obtain – basic language skills of the country in which they are assigned to be hosted. Fluency is not required as most overseas participants speak English to some degree.

NOTE: Rotary cannot guarantee that there will be a host or match for every applicant!

ORIENTATION SEMINAR

The District will host an Orientation Seminar in March, for both Short Term and Long Term Youth Exchange participants and their parents. Attendance is required. Students will receive travel advice, safety tips, packing guidance, and valuable information to prepare each student for what each might expect while being hosted abroad. Students will also get to visit with one another and with Inbound Exchange Students from other countries.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Exchange students may also attend the Rotary District Conference, if available to do so. Students will meet and visit with other Inbound and Outbound Exchange Students and may participate in a flag ceremony presented for Rotary & guests.

R. Y. L. A.

Some Inbound and Outbound Exchange Students participate in Rotary's Youth Leadership Awards Program, a weekend event in April or May of each year, building leadership and teamwork skills as well as lasting friendships. Cost is approximately $200 (sometimes paid by a sponsoring club).

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

The summer travel schedule of each Short Term Exchange will be determined by the exchanging students and their families, generally for a four week stay in each home.

PROGRAM COSTS

The applicant and his / her family are responsible for application fees (unless paid by sponsoring Club), passport, required attendance at Outbound Orientation, insurance, travel costs, and the expense of hosting and providing local experiences for your exchange sister/brother here for four weeks.

Our District Application Fee, presently $300, covers printing costs, exchange cards, badges, and Outbound Orientation registration fees. In the event the exchange does not occur, the unused portion of the student's application fees will be refunded.

Insurance is a standard policy required for all outbound students.

Air travel may be arranged by the family through your own travel agent, on-line, or through Rotary's sponsored travel agency – whatever works best for you. The two exchanging families often work together to coordinate both students' mid-summer flight.

At the Orientation Seminar, students and parents may learn more about these options.

Dist. 6420 Rotary Illinois, USA | Youth Exchange