

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE is one of Rotary International's best-known and the most successful service programs. Since 1929, hundreds of thousands of young men and women have been global ambassadors through Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE). Sponsoring clubs have built deeper connections within their communities and with Rotary clubs around the world. Sponsoring an outbound student or hosting an inbound student can be a great way to extend the club's reach and build interest in joining Rotary. Hosting provides natural connections to schools, churches, and the greater community. With the strong support of D7070 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee – Sponsoring and hosting a youth exchange student is an exciting program is available to every club.

Rotary International and Rotary Youth Exchange 7070 operate a 10-11 months cultural and educational exchange. Two students are involved in the exchange:

- a. An inbound international exchange student who lives with two to four host families in the host club community for an entire school year
- b. An outbound exchange student from your community who lives abroad for a whole school year attending school and immersing themselves in the local culture in one of more than 15 countries

THE CLUB'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Inbound Exchange

Hosting an inbound international student requires extensive club commitment, but is also a rich way to build community interest in Rotary. Our inbound students are not only ambassadors for their countries, but are also ambassadors for Rotary within their host communities.

To host an inbound student, clubs agree to:

- Provide approximately \$3,500-5,000 to cover program costs.
- Designate a Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) to serve as the primary point of contact for all RYE matters.
- Designate a Club Counsellor to be the liaison and resource person for the inbound student.
- Recruit two to four host families (who do NOT have to be Rotary members).
- Maintain connections to the local high school.

Outbound Exchange

Sponsoring an outbound student introduces the club for youth exchange.

The club agrees to:

- Welcome the exchange student into your club, make them a part of your meetings, service projects and special events.
- Designate a Club Youth Exchange Officer to look after administrative duties & liaison with host families
- Designate a Club Counsellor to support the youth exchange student.
- Provide a monthly stipend for the student and pay for orientation costs for your inbound student.



Be part of something great!

You can learn more from your local Rotary club
Or at our website:
rye7070.org



Four great reasons to get involved with Rotary Youth Exchange

- 1** Support the experiences of our global youth ambassadors
- 2** Increase the visibility and connections of the club within your community
- 3** Introduce Rotary to potential new (often younger!) members
- 4** Add some youth and excitement to your meetings

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Building new community connections for local clubs



Rotary is the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work.

Ray Klinginsmith, Past President, Rotary International.

RECRUITING STUDENTS

As one of the oldest and best-known international youth exchange programs, the Rotary brand goes a long way to support student recruiting. For most clubs, the best recruiting is to connect with local high schools.

The best contacts include:

- Guidance counsellors
- Principals and assistant principals
- Language and social studies teachers

Recruiting starts by contacting these school leaders and providing a simple Rotary brochure to pass along with interested students.

Beyond the school, RYE recruiting is excellent A way to strengthen club connections with the local churches and service groups. Because Rotarians are generally active community members, for most In clubs, there are natural connections to other groups then make low-key recruiting easy.

For more active clubs, hosting a community-wide Information session involving past RYE students (Early in the fall is an excellent way to build interest and enthusiasm).

RECRUITING STUDENTS

All adult volunteers in Rotary Youth Exchange programs are subject to a background check, and must participate in training activities.

RECRUITING HOST FAMILIES

Many first-time clubs think that recruiting a host Families will be the biggest challenge. That is often NOT the case!

When the members of the club approach this as an ongoing opportunity to meet and cultivate potential new club members, as well as host families, it is much more of an opportunity than a barrier.

Approach host family recruiting as a club-wide activity, not just the responsibility of one or two Youth Exchange volunteers. A few simple tips that other clubs have found it valuable:

- Emphasize the excitement: It is a 3-4 month-long opportunity to share your home and family life with an interesting young person who will reciprocate by sharing his or her culture.
- Recruit year-round: Build a list of prospects on an ongoing basis, timing is everything, and the a family that is unable to host this year might be more flexible next year.



- Don't be afraid to ask: Information sessions and brochures can answer questions, but finding host families require a personal ask. "Would you consider hosting a Rotary student?" is a gentle way to start a conversation.
- Enlist others: Club members can be most helpful by extending the search for host families to the other local communities of which they are a part. Schools or sports groups, churches, or other service clubs are all great referral sources.
- Utilize past youth exchange participants (ROTEX) and their families. The most persuasive recruitment is often driven by the enthusiasm of people who know the experience.
- Highlight the community support available: Even if your club hosts only one student, your host families will be part of one of the most active RYE programs in the country.

BENEFITS TO THE CLUB

Perhaps the greatest benefit to sponsoring an outbound exchange student or hosting an inbound student exchange student is an opportunity to connect the club to a broad – and often younger – cross-section of the local community. RYE provides natural connections that put Rotary in the public eye in an exciting and powerful way.

By promoting RYE and recruiting student participants and host families, each club builds and extends relationships family by family, with all of the additional networks and connections they bring.



HELP AND SUPPORT

Our District has been involed in Youth exchange annually since 1971. Our committee can answer your questions and help solve your issues.

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WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE!

The District Rotary Youth Exchange Committte is able to help answer host family questions, before, during and after an exchange. This is a tremendous resource to support families, students, and club volunteers!