

District 6250 Rotary Youth Exchange Inbound Student Travel Policy

Travel for students on the Rotary Youth Exchange program is a privilege; it is not a right inherent to the student. This privilege is extended to IB students by their host parents and RYE support team depending on a) the student's good behavior, b) the student's good academic standing, and c) the specific travel opportunity.

Definitions

- Adult = person 18 years or older. AND for the purposes of RYE, has graduated from high school.
- Background-Checked = a process to verify a person's identity and past record(s). A "clean background-check" is an indication that the individual does not have a public record of risky behavior.
- (Belo) RYE Tours = one-to-two week long travel opportunities organized by an approved 3rd party for IB students to explore an area of the U.S.A. with other RYE students.
- Day Trip = a journey completed in one day, returning the student to his/her host family to sleep for the night.
- Good Standing = an IB student who is meeting / exceeding the expectations of the RYE program. This includes multiple factors such as: grades of A, B and C at school; no unexcused absences / tardiness issues at school; progressing English skills; positive relationship with host family(s), Rotarians, teachers and students.
- Overnight = stay for the night in a location other than your host family's home.
- Travel = move from one city to another, typically over a distance of some length requiring use of a vehicle or airplane.

Policy: To comply with U.S. Department of State requirements, District 6250 RYE has the following policy related to travel of Inbound students.

Note: All host family members and Rotary Youth Exchange officers / counselors have clean background-checks. This is a prerequisite for their role.

1. IB students will not travel more than 50 miles in a vehicle with a driver under the age of 18. Exemptions to the rule require approval from the YEO and IB Coordinator.
2. IB students will not receive approval to travel overnight with an adult who is not background checked.
3. Travel approval will be rejected for students not considered as being in Good Standing. This includes local, regional and (Belo) RYE Tour travel.
4. IB students who travel on an overnight trip must be accompanied by an Adult with a clean Background-Check.
 - a. Example: Rafael (age 17 or 18) wants to go camping at the state park next weekend with his 2 friends from high school (age 16 and 18). This is not approved / not allowed. Although one of the HS friends is 18, he is not background checked.

5. IB students are allowed to travel with their host parents(s) and with background-checked Rotarians freely for Day and Overnight Trips within their host state (Wisconsin or Minnesota). No approvals are necessary.
 - a. Example: Brayden is hosted in Madison, WI. He is accompanying his host family to Green Bay, WI to visit a relative for the weekend. This travel does not need approval (no approval form needed).
6. IB students are allowed to travel with other Adults IF the Hosting Rotary Club agrees to process and pay for background checks on the Adults.
 - a. In this case the request should be made at least 3 weeks in advance to allow for the background check.
 - b. It also requires the IB's YEO to approve the club incurring the cost of the background check.
 - c. The travel will be approved only if the background check is clean on all accompanying Adults.
 - d. Example: Koume has been invited to a weekend in Milwaukee with her new friend and the friends' parents. Koume must receive approval from her YEO to have the friends' parents background checked.
7. IB students with a travel opportunity outside of their host state AND staying overnight must complete the Travel Request Form at least 5 days ahead of the trip.
 - a. [The Travel Request Form](#) can be accessed from the [IB Student Resources webpage](#).
 - b. RYE Tours also require completion of this form. Complete this form prior to sending the District Chair your Belo paperwork. Approval can be withdrawn if the IB student is no longer in Good Standing and making limited effort to revert.
 - c. If this travel is outside the U.S.A., the form must be completed 4 weeks ahead of the travel date due to special Visa paperwork.
 - d. The student is responsible for completing this form. It will route to the YEO for approval first, then to the IB Coordinator. The District Chair is cc'ed on approved requests.
8. See separate policies for traveling with visiting parents or visiting a friend / relative in the USA.

Effective: November 18, 2024