

Rotary District 7475 Youth Exchange with Japan: July 31 – August 20, 2025

Now is your opportunity to sign up for the unique opportunity to host two Japanese students for a week with your family. Cultural exchange between countries has never been more important, and this program has proven the benefits for almost 50 years. Host families in this program have two students for about 1 week.

On weekdays, the students are traveling as a group with their Japanese leaders and Rotarians and volunteers from our District. On Saturday and Sunday, they will spend the day with their host family so that you can show them your community and favorite locations, and they can experience life in the US.

On Thursday July 31, twenty high-school students and their leaders from Shikoku Japan will arrive at JFK Airport. They will be staying in New Jersey for three weeks, departing on Wednesday, August 20. During that time, they will be visiting historic, cultural, sports, and amusement locations in New Jersey, New York City and Pennsylvania.

During the week host families provide breakfast and then bring their students to a designated location where they will meet the rest of the group and board the tour bus. At the end of the day, the hosts will pick the students up at the same location and learn all about their adventures. On most days they will be home for dinner. On some days the arrival will be later based on the day's schedule.

Host families are responsible for meals, accommodations, activities, supervision and care. We will conduct an online training meeting for all hosts families to describe the details and answer any questions. Host are required to complete an online application. To comply with Rotary youth protection requirements, a background check is required for all members of the household over 18 who will be at home while the students are present.

To organize the hosting process, we divide the trip up into three areas in an effort to make pick-up and drop-off geographically convenient. Please review the schedule below and when you respond that you would like to host, please let me know which area or areas would be most convenient for you considering both geography and dates.

Area Schedule:

On Friday 8/1 the students will be with Madison Rotary. The Welcome Party will be held in Madison on Friday evening and the first set of host families will meet their students and take them home for their stay.

Monday 8/4 - Friday 8/8: The students will be visiting New York City and areas in eastern NJ. The transition dinner will be Friday 8/8 in the West Orange area.

Monday 8/11 - Thursday 8/14: The students will be visiting areas in western and central NJ. The transition dinner will be in the Phillipsburg area on Thursday 8/14. Note that the host families will be responsible for the student's activities on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

On Monday 8/18 the students will visit Philadelphia and will be attending the Phillies game in the evening. The game is a benefit day for the Phillies and proceeds from our tickets will benefit The Rotary Foundation Polio Fund.

On Tuesday 8/19 the students will be in the Phillipsburg area, then traveling to their hotel late afternoon.

The farewell party will be in North Branch on Tuesday evening. All host families will be invited to the party. We hope you can attend and say Sayonara.

The students leave for JFK on Wednesday morning.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please email me or call with any questions. To sign up, email me at the address below with your date and area preferences and we will get the process started.

Rotary Youth Exchange is one of the greatest programs Rotary offers. This program with Japan is unique in that it has been conducted between Districts 2670 and 7475 for so many years. It has had an impact on thousands of students and families. I hope you will continue your relationship with the program or start a new relationship this year. You will not regret your decision.

Arigato Gozaimasu,

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