

## Rotary District 7475 Short Term Youth Exchange with Japan 2026 Host Family Information

Rotary Youth Exchange is one of the most impactful programs Rotary offers, and cultural exchange between countries has never been more important - especially for those who will be guiding our world in the future. Our Short -Term Youth Exchange (STYE) with Japan is unique in that it has been conducted between Rotary District 2670 in Shikoku Japan and our District 7475 for 48 years. During those years, it has had an impact on thousands of students and host families.



Host families are an important part of the exchange experience.

Host Families gain firsthand experience with the culture, lifestyle and perspective of our guest students, and you contribute in a direct way to their impression of the people and culture of our country. The students become part of your family.

Without hosts for the students, there is no program.

Now is your opportunity to sign up for the unique opportunity to host two Japanese students for a week with your family this August. I hope you will continue your relationship with the program or start a new relationship this year. You will not regret your decision.

### **Background Information**

On Thursday July 30, twenty high-school students and their leaders from Shikoku Japan will arrive at Newark Airport. They will be staying in New Jersey for three weeks, departing on Wednesday, August 19. During that time, they will be visiting historic, cultural, sports, and amusement locations in New Jersey, New York City and Pennsylvania.

The students are paired by gender, and each pair will typically stay with a host family for about one week. Students may share a bedroom but must have separate beds. You may request males or females. Host families with high-school students are encouraged. Non-Rotarians can serve as host families.

On Group Days, the students are traveling with their Japanese leaders and NJ Rotarians and volunteers. The host families provide breakfast and then bring their students to a designated location where they will meet the other students 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.



On Family Days, the students spend the full day with their host family so that you can show them your community and favorite locations, and they can experience life in the US.

Host families are responsible for meals, accommodations, activities, supervision and care while the students are with you. We will conduct an online training meeting for all hosts families to describe the details and answer any questions.

To organize the hosting process, we divide the trip up into three geographic areas in an effort to make pick-up and drop-off points geographically convenient. This year we are working to minimize bus time and travel time for the students and hosts. You can review the trip schedule below.

Protection of the students is our most important responsibility. To comply with Rotary International and US Department of State requirements, hosts are required to complete a detailed online application and background check. These are managed by a Rotary organization called Eastern States Student Exchange (ESSEX). A background check is required for all members of the household over 18 who will be in contact with the students.

You will find complete information on the program at [this link](#). Under Host Family Information you will find a copy of the online application for your information and review, so you know what to expect. If you decide to apply, you will receive a link to the actual online form via email.

### **Trip Schedule & Overview**

The students arrive at Newark Airport on Thursday 7/30. They will spend their first night in a hotel.

On Friday 7/31 the students will be with Madison Rotary. A 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.

#### **1st Week Stay: Friday PM 7/31 to Friday AM 8/7**

#### **Target locations for Host Families & Sponsor Clubs: Southern Middlesex, Mercer, Somerset, Hunterdon**

Monday 8/3 - Friday 8/7: The students will be in the southern part of our district. On the list are trips to Six Flags, Point Pleasant, Philadelphia and other sites in or near the southern counties. On Thursday 8/6 the students will be attending the Phillies game in the evening. It is a Benefit Day for the Phillies and 50% of the proceeds from the tickets will benefit The Rotary Foundation Polio Fund.

The transition dinner to the next host family will be on Friday 8/7. Location TBD.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week Stay: Friday PM 8/7 to Thursday AM 8/13**

**Target locations for Host Families & Sponsor Clubs: Eastern Morris, Northern Middlesex, Union, Essex**

Monday 8/10 - Thursday 8/13: The students will visit sites New York City and eastern NJ. On the list are the United Nations, MOMA, Museum of Natural History, Statue of Liberty, Freedom Tower, Edison Museum and Turtleback Zoo.

The transition dinner to the next host family will be on Thursday 8/13. Location TBD.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Week Stay: Thursday PM 8/13 to Tuesday 8/18 PM**

**Target Location for Host Families and Sponsor Clubs: Western Morris, Sussex, Warren & Hunterdon**

Friday 8/14, Monday 17, Tuesday 8/18 AM: The students will be visiting sites in or near our western counties. On the list are Morristown Historical Sites, Sterling Hill Mine Museum, Ashram Temple, Pool Party and the Delaware Water Gap.

The Farewell Party will be Tuesday evening 8/18 at a central location TBD. All host families will be invited to the party. The students who went to Japan and their families also attend. It is a fun event that brings everyone together to say Sayonara.

The students stay in a hotel on Tuesday evening 8/18 and travel to Newark Airport on Wednesday morning 8/19.

**To Apply to be a Host Family**

Thank you for your interest in Youth Exchange. If you are interested in applying to be a host family for our Short Term Youth Exchange Program with Japan 2026, [click here](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bob Law at [bob.law.7475@gmail.com](mailto:bob.law.7475@gmail.com)

