

## What is Rotary Youth Exchange?

Your chance to travel the world, experience a new way of life, learn a new language, make new friends, live in another culture...

- Spend a school year abroad, living with host families, going to school.
- Immerse yourself for four to six weeks on the family-to-family exchange.

## Why should I go?

Ask any returned exchange student- here's what they say:

- I learned so much about myself and the world
- My year abroad has changed me profoundly as a person
- I made lifetime memories and friendships
- My year abroad was extremely challenging at times
- My exchange opened a huge door that has led me to who I am by strengthening my curiosity, growing my understanding and compassion, and challenging my abilities to be better.

## My parents are worried about my safety.

So are we! We choose our exchange partners as carefully as possible, using the Rotary network of youth exchange programs. Rotary International sets standards all exchange programs must meet, and our exchange district also checks references before establishing relationships with specific exchange partners.

## Where can I go?

Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa... near and far.

- For the school year program, students are assigned countries based on interests, aptitudes and host country requirements.

## How much does it cost?

The program is completely administered by Rotary club members, keeping program expenses low. Costs vary depending on the country where the exchange occurs. Typically, students and their parents/guardians are expected to cover the following expenses:

- Dental and Medical Exam
- Round trip airfare
- Travel insurance
- All travel documents such as passports and visas

Rotary provides pre-departure orientation sessions at no cost to students, occurring between March and late May/June before the student's departure.

While abroad, food, housing and tuition are provided at no cost by the host families and hosting Rotary clubs. Students receive a stipend for spending money from the host Rotary Club.

Costs of clothing, personal supplies and optional tours are not covered by Rotary.

### **Will I get credit for school?**

It depends on you! Talk to your school counselor as soon as you know where you are going. You may need to take extra classes before you leave, or when you return. You will need to provide documentation of classes to get any credit.

### **Who can apply?**

For the school year program, any high school freshman or sophomore who will be between the age of 15 and 17.5 next July can apply.

For the summer program, any high school student can apply, ages 15 to 18.

### **How do I get to be a Rotary Exchange Student?**

1. Apply!
2. Interview.
3. If selected, complete and submit the required paperwork in a timely fashion.
4. Be ready to commit time and energy preparing for the exchange- school year students must attend orientation sessions and commit to learning the language.
5. Be willing to be an ambassador for your home country in another culture and share your experiences when you return.

**Long-Term Exchange Applications are due on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the exchange year departing in August.**