



District 5970 Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange



One of the oldest programs in Rotary (dating back to 1920's)



True exchange- Your club sends a student and your club receives a student.



Great opportunity to engage club in the community and recruit members.



Rotary Youth Exchange is an investment in the future of Rotary and of your club.

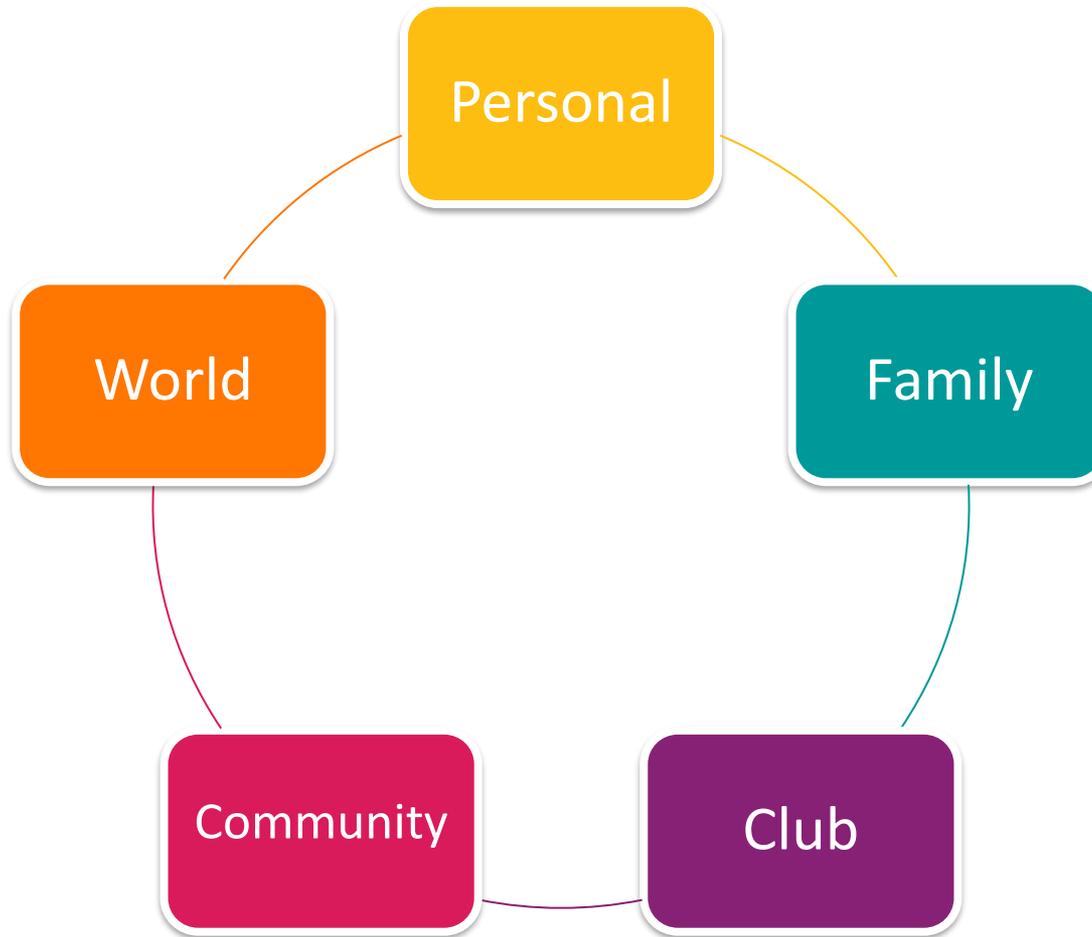


Sponsoring and hosting exchange students requires work; but that's what Rotary is all about:

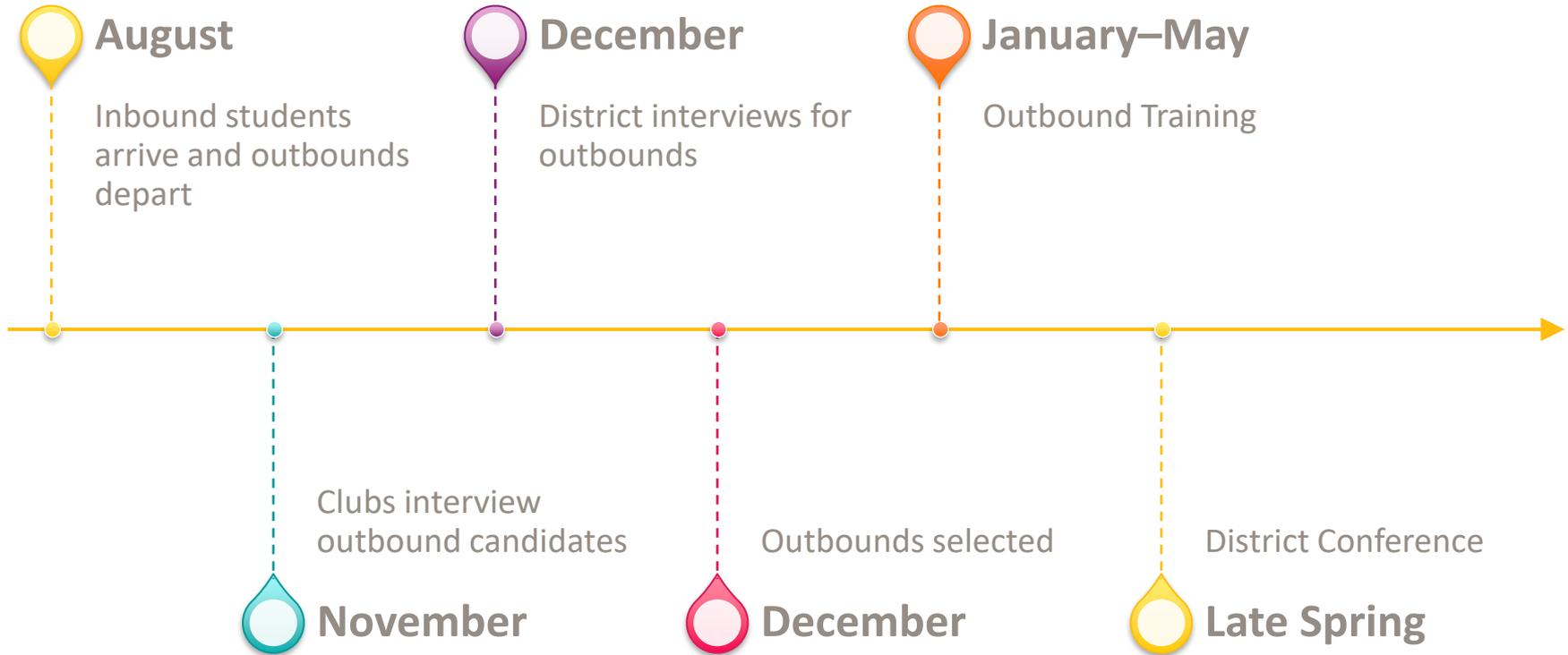


SERVICE ABOVE SELF!

Why participate in Rotary Youth Exchange?



RYE Annual Calendar



Estimated Financial Costs to Participate in RYE

Cost to Outbound Student:

- **Estimated total expenses average approximately \$6,700** consisting of:
 - \$3,350 application fee
 - ~\$1,500 cost of plane tickets
 - ~\$900 insurance
 - ~\$600 emergency fund
 - ~\$200 visa
 - ~\$60 RYE jacket
 - ~\$100 miscellaneous costs

Cost to Club:

- **Estimated total expenses average between \$2,500-\$3,000** consisting of:
 - **Outbound:**
 - Sponsor for RYLA \$500
 - **Inbound:**
 - \$1,000 for Monthly Stipend (\$100/mo)
 - ~\$750 for school lunches
 - ~\$500 for miscellaneous fees (school fees, Rotary meals, activity passes, etc)
 - Some Clubs assist with cell phone plans (optional) ranging from \$10-50 per month

Cost to District:

- District Conference \$100

Additional Requirements for Clubs to Participate Hosting and Sponsoring RYE Students

- Be willing to **host an inbound student** for an academic year.
- Be willing to **sponsor an outbound student** for an academic year.
- Be willing to **identify a Rotarian in the Club that will serve as counselor**. The counselor will work with the inbound student throughout the year and advocate for him/her as needed, including monthly reporting.
- Be willing to **identify a Rotarian in the Club that will serve as Youth Exchange Officer (YEO)**. The YEO will work with the host families in the vetting process, monthly reporting, and advocate for the host families as needed throughout the year.
- Be willing to **identify, recruit and secure three host families** for your inbound student. The host families need not be Rotarians, but it is best practice to have as many Rotarian host families as possible to maximize the experience for each.
- Be willing to **identify a local high school** that is able to and willing to accept a foreign exchange student.
- Be willing to **assist with identifying candidates to be outbound students** and encouraging them to apply. The District Committee can assist with this as well and provide further direction.
- Be willing to **assist in the District interview process**, typically in December, to vet outbound student applicants.

ROTARIAN COUNSELORS – THE INBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT’S ADVOCATE

- ROTARIAN COUNSELORS serve as liaisons between the student, the Rotary club, the host family, and community at large.
- The counselor serves as the student’s primary Rotary contact, easing the student’s transition into the country and the community through regular personal contact.
- Host Rotarian counselor responsibilities:
 - Assist the Club in securing host families.
 - Establish contact with the student before departure or arrival.
 - Works with Treasurer of Club to safekeep emergency fund money and establish bank account for stipend.
 - Assist with cell phone duties (sim cards, local phone/data plans, etc).
 - Enroll the student in your local high school and counsel the student in matters such as choosing classes and participating in activities.
 - Maintain and document regular contact with the student (at least once a month).
 - Assist with the second home inspection with each host family.
 - Help the student adapt to the culture and language.
 - Create a supportive atmosphere in which the student feels comfortable discussing any concerns.
 - Serve as an advocate for the student in any matter.
 - Be a consistent resource for the student as they rotate through host families during the exchange.

YOUTH EXCHANGE OFFICERS (YEO) – THE HOST FAMILY’S SCREENER & ADVOCATE

- YOUTH EXCHANGE OFFICERS (YEO) serve as our local coordinator for purposes of the U.S Department of State.
- The YEO is the liaison between the host families, the school and the club.
- Youth Exchange Officer responsibilities:
 - Secure a spot for the student at your local high school.
 - Assist the Club in securing host families.
 - Guide potential host families through their own application process – completing the application, securing references, completing their criminal background checks, performing an interview and home inspection.
 - Confirm who the host families will be during the student's stay and arrange the date and time of changing host families.
 - Orient the host parents as to their responsibilities. Ensure that they participate in local training provided by the District.
 - Assist in dealing appropriately with any unresolved difficulties between students, host families and school.

HOW TO BECOME A ROTARIAN COUNSELOR OR YOUTH EXCHANGE OFFICER

- 1) Complete and submit a volunteer application – good for five years
 - 2) Obtain reference(s) and have them complete a form – good for five years
 - 3) Submit and pass a criminal background check – good for one year*
 - 4) Participate in Youth Exchange Training – required annually
 - 5) Take Department of State course (online) and pass the associated quiz – good for one year*
 - 6) Take youth protection course (online) and pass the associated quiz – good for five years
- These roles are interchangeable, but counselor should identify as the same gender as the student. Therefore, it is ideal to have a counselor and YEO of opposite genders.

HOST FAMILIES – THE INBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT’S HOME AWAY FROM HOME

- HOST FAMILIES provide the student with a safe and nurturing home environment. While it is wonderful if host families are Rotarians, that is not a requirement.
- Host family responsibilities:
 - Provide a bedroom and a bathroom for the student, including a comfortable bed and a specific study space. The bedroom and bathroom can be shared so long as the student has their own bed and bathroom use can be private.
 - Establish contact with the student before departure or arrival.
 - Serve as a contact for your local high school in the role of guardian.
 - Provide nutritious meals for your student, respecting any food allergies or sensitivities they may have.
 - When appropriate, include them in any family activities in the same way you would include your own children. Especially holidays and special occasions.
 - Treat them as a member of your family.
 - Help the student adapt to the culture and language.
 - Work with the community and the student’s school to ensure the student is involved in positive activities and community life.
 - Create a supportive atmosphere in which the student feels comfortable discussing any concerns.

WE WANT TO BE A HOST FAMILY! WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

- 1) Complete a host family application that can be found on the District 5970 website. [Rotary District 5970 Youth Exchange](#)
- 2) The host family application also asks you to identify references. It is very helpful if you can work with your identified references after you complete your application to ensure that they complete their paperwork to serve as your reference.
- 3) A criminal background check is required for anyone in the host family household who will be 18 years or older and living in the host home with the exchange student. These criminal background checks are good for one year.
- 4) Participate in an in-home interview.
- 5) Participate in an orientation meeting relating to the HF-4 document (on a different date than the in-home interview).
- 6) Participate in any other training, either in person or online, that the club or district may require.
- 7) After the exchange student arrives in the home, another home inspection will be completed within 60 days. In the unlikely event that an exchange student remains in the same home for more than six months, a third in-home inspection will be required.

Getting Involved – Opportunities for all Clubs and Rotarians to Participate with RYE



Meet your 5970 RYE Team

Jeff Hassman
District Chair



Maripili Hassman
Inbound Coordinator



Beth Globokar
Outbound Coordinator



Natalia Blaskovich
STE Coordinator



John Schultz
Committee Member



Rebecca Schultz
Database/Compliance



Brian Globokar
Club Liaison



Amanda Fritz
Database/Compliance



How exciting! What an opportunity! What next?

If you or your Club are interested in sponsoring a Rotary Youth Exchange Student, please email the District 5970 Youth Exchange Committee at:

5970rye@gmail.com



Thank you!

Rotary Youth Exchange...

Changing the World
One Student at a Time