The Five Components of the Rotary YES Program

STUDENT COMMITMENT

After completing an application and an interview early in their junior year, local Rotary clubs select students to participate in the YES Program. Each student agrees to attend monthly leadership training, volunteer a minimum of 80 hours in their local community, help fundraise, contribute toward planning the international service projects, and travel internationally to implement the project at the end of the school year.

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETINGS

1. To qualify for the international service project during the summer, students are required to attend monthly program meetings. Throughout the school year, local Rotary members lead and mentor the students by planning events and activities together and teaching the students accountability and teamwork.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE

2. Participating students are required to volunteer a minimum of 80 hours in their local community during the school year. Half of the students' hours must be at a "main service site" outside their normal comfort zone, such as working with clients at adult daycare facilities or working with children with disabilities. By becoming relied-upon volunteers, students learn the benefits of service in their community.

FUNDRAISING

3. Local programs and the international project are funded through Rotary Club sponsorships and annual fundraisers. Students help raise the funds for the international trip through contributions and fundraising activities. Each student is supported by a Rotary Club to help them achieve their fundraising goals.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

4. YES students participate in two retreats. The first retreat in October allows the team to get to know each other and each person's unique personality. They also participate in a group service project. In March, participants develop new and undiscovered leadership skills, create personal bonds, embrace challenges, and learn the value of teamwork.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

5. The culminating project for Rotary's YES Program is an international service project. Working under the umbrella of NGOs (non-governmental organizations), students and their leaders implement a service project in a remote area of the world. The international trip enhances relationships between cultures and participants experience making a difference through their time and labor.

International sites are selected based on the following criteria:

- The community is safe, with access to adequate housing and food.
- The international project can improve the quality of life of the people being served.
- A Rotary Club or organization in the country to help coordinate the project.
- The community is willing and able to participate in the project.

Students participating in the YES Program research the projects that will be implemented and lead the projects in the village.

Youth Engaged Rotary YES in Service

Say YES to the Opportunity of a Lifetime.

The YES Program touches many lives through unique local and international service opportunities for 11th grade students.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide leadership development opportunities while engaging youth in service both locally and internationally.

COMMUNITIES BENEFIT

Organizations in the student's home community receive hundreds of volunteer hours as every student commits to a minimum of 80 hours of local service during the school year.

THE WIN-WIN OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Communities at international service sites are provided with much needed assistance and develop positive relationships with American and Canadian volunteers. YES Program students experience cultures different from their own, broadening their world views. In turn, Rotarians become more enthusiastic about fundraising when they witness the significant impact of their efforts.

Completed YES Program Projects Include:

Providing Water Filters • Building Latrines
Planning and Providing Seeds for Community Gardens
Purchasing and Planting Fruit Trees
Providing Chickens, Feed and Building Coops
Providing Textbooks and School Supplies
Assembling and Installing Wood Stoves
Painting and Beautifying Schools • Distributing 'Days For Girls' Feminine Hygiene Kits and Men Who Know educational materials • Creating Children's Activities • Building Play Structures
Building Schools and Providing Classroom Furniture

The Rotary YES Program is inspired by Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" and is designed to train leaders of tomorrow through service opportunities in our local and world communities.

For more information, visit www.YES5050.org

Bernadette Halliday - (360) 319-9524
bernadette4ah@gmail.com

Youth Engaged Rotary YES in Service

A Rotary Program for Youth Providing Opportunities for Local and International Volunteer Service

Say YES to Youth Engaged in Service for the opportunity of a lifetime!

Rotary