

Each year, about 8,000 students from over 100 countries participate in exchanges through the Youth Exchange program. The long-term exchange is open to students ages 15-18 and usually lasts 10-12 months. The student lives with more than one family in the host country and is required to attend school.

Host families are a vital part of the cultural exchange, offering the student a view of another country and in turn you have the opportunity to learn about a new culture from a young leader. Hosting is a tremendous experience in which you can share in a young person's hopes and dreams and develop a lifelong connection with a student and family from another country. It can be challenging to help a young person transition to a new culture and ease into the surroundings but the rewards are immeasurable.

Host families in the Youth Exchange program come in all shapes and sizes. They can be Rotarians or non-Rotarians, and may include young children, older children, or no children at all.

I'D LIKE TO HOST!

If you consider becoming a host family we would love to talk to you. Please contact the Youth Exchange Officer in your local Rotary Club:

HOST A YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT

Experience
another culture
without having
to leave your
home!



HOSTING... WHAT'S INVOLVED?

You are responsible for their day-to-day needs (explained in detail inside) and for keeping them safe. In general, you are asked to treat them as if they are one of your children.



DISTRICT 7090

Rotary District 7090 Youth Exchange
www.rotaryye7090.org

WHAT IS ROTARY

Rotary clubs are service organizations that strive to improve the quality of life in their communities, promote high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace. There are over 1.3 million members organized in 33,000 Rotary clubs in the world. Club members, called Rotarians, are business, professional, and community leaders who volunteer their time and talents to serve others. Rotary Youth Exchange is one of their service activities.

The Youth Exchange program is distinctive because it is operated completely by volunteers around the world. Each district arranges its own exchanges with other districts. Host families are screened, interviewed, selected, and supported by their local Rotary club.



Your local Rotary Club sends a student abroad and in turn hosts an incoming student. Students are required to attend high school whilst abroad and live with different host families during the year. The student (and his parents) pay for the flights, insurance, visas, etc. Being immersed in a different culture for a year opens the students' minds and given that Rotary worldwide has more than 8,000 students taking part in these exchanges, it builds understanding and thus a better world! For the students this is often a life altering experience.



WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A HOST FAMILY?

Hosting a student can be an extremely rewarding experience for everyone in the family, yet it is a role that requires a lot of responsibility. Host families are to meet the following expectations:

- Before the student arrives establish communication with the student.
- Understand the program rules the student must follow.
- Know how to contact key Rotarians involved in Youth Exchange in case of an emergency.
- During the exchange provide a safe and welcoming environment for trust and friendship to develop between the student and your family.
- Support and make the student feel like a part of the family, with the same privileges and obligations.
- Gently encourage the student to learn and adopt most of the ways of your household.
- Provide room and board for the student. All students must have their own bed. If the student must share a room, it must be with a child of the same gender and similar age.
- Provide a place in the home where the student may study in private.
- Recognize the student's birthday and other special occasions.
- Ensure the student knows how to contact family members, friends, and other support networks.
- In case of an emergency, know how to access and use the student's travel insurance policy.
- Voice any concerns and questions regarding the student to the Rotarian host counselor, including serious homesickness, difficulty adapting to family life or school, or illness.
- Maintain close contact with the host club and address problems and concerns quickly.
- Exercise supervisory and parental responsibility to ensure the student's well being.
- Encourage involvement in community life by introducing the student to neighbors, friends, and local groups.
- Teach the student about the local culture and learn about the student's culture.
- Advise the student about matters related to school, family, community functions, and friendship.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR FAMILY?

- A great way to expose your family to another culture. It's amazing what you learn from having someone from a different country stay with you.
- Assist someone learning your language and customs and see your own town and country through their eyes!
- Often you will build up a friendship with the student you're hosting that will last a lifetime . . . A place to visit when on holidays!



FAQS

HOW LONG WILL THE STUDENT BE LIVING WITH MY FAMILY?

Most long-term exchange students live with two or three host families during their exchange. This means the student may live with you for anywhere between two and six months.

IS IT EXPENSIVE TO HOST A STUDENT?

Whilst you will see a rise in your grocery bills, there are no other costs to your family. The student receives \$100 pocket money from the club, the club has made arrangements with the school; therefore there are no educational expenses, and the student is insured for any medical expenses.

HOW WILL I COMMUNICATE WITH THE STUDENT?

Most students do not speak English as their native language. Whilst most have a reasonable command of English, you will undoubtedly have the chance to help them improve their language skills.

Some anxiety is to be expected if you have never hosted an exchange student. If you have questions, please contact your local Rotary Club to discuss them. We're always looking for host families and will be delighted to talk to you.