# What Is Rotary Youth Exchange?

It is one of the largest and best known Youth Exchange Programs available. Volunteer Rotarians monitor the program, with monthly reports from the students. It is a full year high school exchange program sponsored by Rotary Clubs from around the world to benefit high school age youth. The purpose of the program is:

- 1. To promote international good will and understanding at the person to person level.
- 2. To provide the opportunity for study and international living abroad for a period of one year.

## **Applicant Requirements**

The Rotary Exchange program is open to all students between the ages of 15½ and 18½. You do not have to be affiliated with Rotary in any way in order to participate, although the program is open to Rotarian families also.

You do not need to have knowledge of a foreign language to apply. Some countries require a language school upon arrival and a few do require prior language study.

You must rank in the top half of your class and provide two years of school transcripts.

Applications may be downloaded from <a href="https://www.csrye.org">www.csrye.org</a> or by contacting District 6560 Outbound Coordinator Mark McSweeney.

# **Time Projections**

Interviews are conducted in mid-October with final applications due in November for the following August departures.

### **Parents Responsibilities**

- Prepaid airfare (\$1200-2800) depends on location.
- Passport.
- The students will need a Blue Blazer, exchange pins, business cards and will need small gifts for host families.
- Travel expenses for orientations
- \$400 required emergency fund
- \$200-400 for Host country health insurance (if required).
- \$100-1500 for host country language school (if required).
- Optional items include phone cards, clothing, and expenses for other travel opportunities which may arise.

# **Student Responsibilities**

- Complete the application completely, including the medical/dental/vision exams by the November due date.
- Successfully complete the district interview process.

- All signatures must be in BLUE ink.
- Abide by all rules of the Exchange Program.
- Indicate country preferences, and be willing to go to any of the top 20 countries prioritized in your application.
- Upon acceptance, study about the country you will be visiting.
- Attend required orientation sessions with a parent present.
- Complete 10½ month exchange.
- Attend high school in host country.

#### **Countries Available**

Denmark • Estonia • Faroe Islands • Finland • Greenland • Iceland • Latvia • Norway • Sweden • Belgium • France • Italy • Turkey • Germany • Spain • Switzerland • Austria • Croatia • Czech Republic • Hungary • Lithuania • Poland • Russia • Slovak Republic • South Africa • Japan • South Korea • Taiwan • Australia • India • Thailand • Chile • Ecuador • Mexico • Peru • Venezuela • Argentina • Bolivia • Brazil • Paraguay

#### **Ouestions & Answers**

**Q** - Do I get to choose which country I'll visit?

**A** - Every effort is made to send you to a country high on your preference list if openings are available in that country. Most are placed in their top 10.

- **Q** How much will it cost?
- **A** It varies. There are many factors. Generally you will find that the Rotary Exchange is one of the most affordable programs available.
- **Q** Where will I be staying?
- **A-** With Rotary approved host families. Usually you'll stay with up to three families during your year.
- **Q** Do I get High School credits for this program?
- **A** Each school district has its own policies. Check with your school counselor.
- **Q** Are there scholarships available?
- **A** Limited, but check with District 6560 for more information.
- **Q** How do I get into the Rotary Youth Exchange Program?
- A Students must apply through District 6560. Please contact the Outbound Coordinator for assistance.
- $\mathbf{Q}$  What are the due dates?
- **A** Preliminary Applications are due in October at the time of interview. The final deadline for the full applications is November 1.
- **Q** When is the full application available?
- A It is available in early September online or through the Outbound Coordinator.

More information may be found on the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange web site. You may also download the application after September 1<sup>st</sup> at this site:

#### www.csrye.org

You can also check our District 6560 web site at:

www.rotary6560.org/youth exchange.html

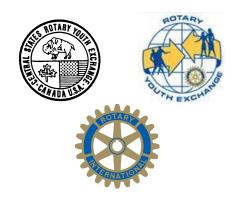
for the latest information on:

- Current calendar
- Current application
- Location of the club nearest to you.

#### **DISTRICT 6560 CONTACT:**

Mark McSweeney
Outbound Coordinator
(Fishers Rotary Club)
317-945-4027
6560rye.oc@sbcglobal.net

#### **ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE**



# Rotary District 6560 Outbound Youth Exchange Program



Helping Youth Discover the World!

An opportunity for youth, to experience another culture and to promote international understanding