

# Youth Exchange









#### Youth Exchange

Youth Exchange is one of Rotary International's structured programs designed to help clubs and districts achieve their service goals in their own communities and in communities abroad, fostering fellowship and goodwill in the process.









### What is Youth Exchange?

The long-term Youth Exchange program is an exchange program for secondary school students. Students travel to other countries to learn about the culture and the language as well as act as a cultural ambassador for their own country.









### Youth Exchange Goals

#### Youth Exchange

- Provides young people with the opportunity to experience cultures other than their own
- Gives participants a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves
- Develops leadership and communication skills in youth
- Advances international understanding and world peace







#### Benefits of Youth Exchange

# Youth Exchange allows students to

- Meet people from other countries and experience their culture firsthand
- Gain a better understanding of the basic needs we all share and the diversity that makes each culture unique









## Youth Exchange History

- The first exchanges began in 1927 involving only European students.
- Exchanges between California and Latin American countries started in 1939.
- Activities spread to the Eastern United States in 1958.
- Youth Exchange became an official program of RI in 1972.









## Youth Exchange Facts

- More than 8,000 students have participate each year in over 60 countries.
- 86% of all Rotary districts participate in the Youth Exchange program.
- Rotary Youth Exchange is an affordable exchange program.
- Rotary Youth Exchange is open to the children or Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike.







## Youth Exchange Guidelines

Eligible students for the long-term program must be:

- Between the ages of 15 and 19
- At the high-school or equivalent academic level
- Above-average academically
- Socially ready to handle living abroad for an extended period







## Long-term Exchanges

A long-term exchange lasts for an academic year. Students stay with 2-3 host families and are required to attend school in their host country.









## New Generations Exchanges

#### New Generations Exchanges are

- Short-term exchanges within Rotary's Youth Exchange program
- For people between the ages of 18 and 25
- Bridges the gap between the Youth Exchange program and the programs of The Rotary Foundation
- Often includes a vocational and or educational element







#### **How Youth Exchange Operates**

- Club committees recruit, screen, and select students and host families for participation in the program.
- District chairs work with their counterparts around the world to organize all aspects of the exchanges.
- Rotary International produces a list of district Youth Exchange chairs quarterly to help communication with one another.





#### Club Committee Structure

The club Youth Exchange committee chair, appointed by the club president, is responsible for all aspects of the club's Youth Exchange program. Suggested positions for the club committee include:

- Outbound coordinator
- Inbound coordinator
- Host family coordinator
- Club counselor
- Public relations coordinator
- Youth protection officer







#### **District Structure**

District governors are responsible for appointing a district chair, overseeing the appointment of a district committee, and supporting and monitoring the program throughout the year. The district committee should include:

- Vice or co-chair
- Treasurer
- Inbound coordinator
- Outbound coordinator
- Insurance coordinator
- Travel coordinator
- Public relations coordinator
- Youth protection officer







#### **Participate**

Get involved with Youth Exchange by

- Hosting a student, for an afternoon activity, club meeting, or project
- Chaperoning exchange student orientations or tours
- Serving on the club committee
- Working with your district committee
- Promoting the program in local schools and to students you know





#### Resources

The following resources are available on the RI Web site:

- Youth Exchange section
- Youth Exchange Handbook
- Primer for Exchange Students
- Youth Exchange staff e-mail
- Rotary E-Learning Center



