

## Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

*Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact.*

Adopted by the RI Board of Directors, November 2002



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®

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# MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

## LONG-TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE



## ARE YOU READY TO . . .

FORM INTERNATIONAL  
FRIENDSHIPS?

LEARN NEW WAYS TO  
COMMUNICATE?

GAIN A FRESH  
UNDERSTANDING OF  
YOURSELF AND OTHERS?

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN  
A DIFFERENT CULTURE?

APPRECIATE OTHER  
WAYS OF DOING THINGS?

ACT AS AN  
AMBASSADOR FOR  
AND EDUCATE OTHERS  
ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY?

**THEN YOU'RE  
READY FOR  
ROTARY YOUTH  
EXCHANGE!**

This year, more than 7,000 young people will have the opportunity of a lifetime — a chance to live in another country and see the world from a new perspective through Rotary Youth Exchange.

### YOU COULD BE ONE OF THEM!

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you'll spend a year living with host families and attending school in a country other than your own. You'll learn a new way of living, maybe even a new language, and a great deal about yourself.

As you're learning, you'll also be teaching the people you meet about your country, your culture, and your ideas. You'll be a young ambassador, helping to bring the world closer together and making some good friends in the process.

If you're ready for the challenge and the rewards of living in another country as an exchange student, then you're ready to discover new worlds through the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

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## WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary clubs carry out service projects that address critical issues such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, substance abuse, and pollution. Service to youth is a major emphasis among Rotarians. Working with and for tomorrow's leaders, Rotary clubs sponsor service clubs for youth and young adults and offer career development and mentoring programs.

Rotary Youth Exchange is administered by Rotary clubs and districts. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs worldwide, creating an extensive network of volunteers to provide the necessary support for the program.

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Rotary Youth Exchange programs are open to students ages 15-19. To qualify, applicants should be above-average students who have demonstrated leadership in their community. Candidates should also possess qualities such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things that will enable them to fully experience life in another country and become excellent cultural ambassadors. All applicants must be sponsored by a local Rotary club and complete a written application and in-person interview.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Costs vary from one Rotary district to another. Typically, students and their parents or guardians are expected to cover the following expenses:

- Round-trip airfare
- Health and accident insurance that meets the requirements of the host club and district
- All travel documents, such as passports and visas
- Clothing and spending money
- An emergency fund for unexpected expenses during the year
- Ancillary travel and tours

For specific information, contact your local Rotary club or district.

## WHAT WILL I DO ON MY EXCHANGE?

During your exchange, you'll live with a host family and attend school. To gain a greater understanding of your host country's culture, you will live with at least two, preferably three, host families during your stay. The host Rotary club will conscientiously screen and select your host families. You will make friends and get to know the area where you're living.

## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

As a Youth Exchange student, you agree to

- Act as an ambassador of your own country
- Be open to new experiences and cultural differences
- Abide by all program rules of your host Rotary club and district
- Accept the supervision of the host district, host club, and host family
- Ask questions of your host family and Rotarian hosts and be an active participant in your exchange

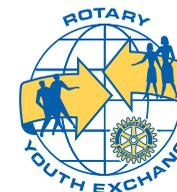
## WHERE WILL MY EXCHANGE BE?

Youth Exchanges take place in nearly all of the 200 countries and geographical areas where Rotary clubs exist. Contact your local Rotary club for more information on where its program operates and whether you may request a specific country.

Wherever you go, you'll discover that the world is smaller than you once thought and that you can gain a great deal from the unique experience of being a Rotary Youth Exchange participant.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Contact your local Rotary club for details.



## WHAT DO PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO SAY?

*"This has been the greatest and most humbling adventure of my life. It seems the future holds many possibilities. I hope that I am able to have a future filled with as much growth and experience as I have experienced the last few years. Through this, I have solid proof that you can change the world, so long as you have a heart without fears, a mind without walls, and a dream big enough to be shared!"*

— South African exchange student to Japan

*"I learned to survive on my own, to make friendships everywhere, accept every invitation as a chance to learn more, and adapt to a new culture completely different from mine."*

— Australian exchange student to Brazil

*"What a wonderful opportunity I was given, from both the Rotary club and my family, to spread my wings, taste the culture, and live the life."*

— U.S. exchange student to Australia

*"Youth Exchange gives teenagers the chance to discover the world in grand style as they bloom into adulthood. It is profound enough to realize that all people fulfill a special purpose on earth, and life would be drab if everyone were spitting resemblances of each other. Therefore, I believe that cultures are like puzzle pieces and when they are placed together, they create a lovely world scene."*

— U.S. exchange student to Sweden

*"It was an experience of a lifetime; I was actually living a different culture. I will never forget the people that I met, relationships that formed, and the different experiences that have left me forever changed. Every moment I will cherish always."*

— Canadian exchange student to Thailand

