



## 2014 January YE e-Newsletter 2014 年 1 月 國際扶輪青少年交換電子報

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### Convention discount deadline extended to 15 January

The deadline to register for the 2014 RI Convention in Sydney at a discounted rate has been extended to **15 January**. [Register now](#) to take advantage of the reduced rate.

### Valentina's mountaintop experience



By Valentina, a current Rotary Youth Exchange student from the United States to Japan who received round-trip airfare through [United's 10 Million Charity Miles Giveaway](#).

Valentina was able to travel to Japan as a Rotary Youth Exchange student because of all those who voted for Rotary in the 2012 United Airlines 10 Million Charity Miles Giveaway. Read about her experiences, including a hike to the top of Mount Fuji, in her [Rotary Voices](#)

[blog post](#).

Rotary came in second in the [2013 giveaway](#), and will again receive a portion of the miles donated by United.

## My mountaintop experience

I have been in Japan for only two weeks, but already so much has happened! The day I arrived I was greeted by local Rotary members and my host mother at the airport. I couldn't believe I was in Japan.

That night, my host Rotary club had a welcoming party for me. I was greeted by so many people. The place where the club meets is very traditional, so I shed my shoes. It felt weird walking around with just my bare feet.

I enjoy being with my host family a lot. Even though my Japanese isn't very good, they help me study and teach me new words every day. The house is very traditional: the floor is tatami mat and I sleep on a futon, which took a little getting used to.

Recently my host mother and I went to a YMCA camp for the weekend, where a group of Rotary members, other exchange students and I got to climb Mount Fuji! It was hot at first but then became very cold and windy and started to rain. By the time we reached the lodge in the dark, I was cold and soaked. Climbing for four to five hours, my legs felt like they were going to fall off.

But we had dinner at the lodge and spent the night there, and woke up bright and early to see the sunrise on top of Mt. Fuji. It was beautiful! The descent was actually harder than climbing up, but the whole trip was worth it just to see the sunrise.

My school here is very different from my school in America. We stay in the same classroom all day and the teachers are the ones who change classes. I also have many pairs of shoes just for school: one for walking outside, one for walking inside, one for the bathroom, one for gym indoors, and one for gym outdoors. Overall, it has been a wonderful experience, and I am looking forward to the rest of my year here.

### **Poll: How do you help students cope with homesickness?**

The holidays can be a challenging time for exchange students far from home. [Answer a one-question poll](#) to tell us what you do to support them when they are homesick.

[View the results](#) from our previous poll, which asked what kinds of support clubs and districts offer to returning students and their families.

## Our newest certified districts

Congratulations to **District 3790** (Philippines) and **District 3250** (Bihar and Jharkhand, India), which have met full certification requirements to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange. See the current list of [noncertified districts](#).

## Win a camera in *The Rotarian's* 2014 photo contest



*Photo from 2013 contest by Caroline Kim and David Mendoza, Interact Club of Frontier High School, Bakersfield, California, USA*

Did you know that Youth Exchange students are eligible to enter *The Rotarian's* 2014 photo contest? Encourage current or former exchange students to submit their photos by **28 February** for a chance to win one of three cameras. [Learn more](#).

## Interact video contest finalists

Watch the [eight finalists](#) in the 2013 Interact video contest, chosen because they received the most votes during the online voting phase of the contest. The grand prize winner and three runners-up will be announced on the [Interact Facebook page](#) later in January.

## Latest Youth Exchange Directory

The Youth Exchange Directory is updated and emailed quarterly, but the current version can be downloaded anytime from the Youth Exchange workgroup site. If you are a district or multidistrict chair, you can access the site by clicking on **Rotary Workgroups** from your profile page after signing in to [My Rotary](#). Note: In order to sign in, district and multidistrict chairs must use the same email address they used when they registered for an account.

If you help administer exchanges and do not have the most recent directory, contact your district or multidistrict chair.

## Answers to your policy questions

The [Rotary Code of Policies](#) (PDF in English) contains details about the Youth Exchange program. The most relevant sections are Youth Protection (2.110), District Finances (17.060), and Youth Exchange (41.060).

Translated versions of these sections are available on the Rotary Youth Exchange workgroup site, which district and multidistrict chairs can access by clicking on **Rotary Workgroups** from their profile page after signing in to [My Rotary](#) or by contacting [youthexchange@rotary.org](mailto:youthexchange@rotary.org).

## Upcoming events

近期活動



### Webinar: Lifecycle of a Service Project (Part 3): Acquiring Resources

[28 January, 10:00-11:00](#) Chicago time (UTC-6) (English)

[28 January, 18:00-19:00](#) Chicago time (UTC-6) (English)

Check your local time.

In this third webinar of the five-part series, you will:

- Learn about how to find partners -- other clubs or organizations -- with which to

- collaborate to increase the impact of your project
- Find out how to secure funding, volunteers, and other needed resources for your service project
  - Become familiar with the Rotary resources available to help make your service project a success

Register now by clicking on one of the links above. Sessions in [French](#), [Japanese](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Spanish](#) will be held in February.

[View the slides](#) and [watch a recording](#) from part 2 of the series.

### **[NAYEN 2014 Conference](#)**

*Cancun, Mexico*

6-9 March

### **[Presidential New Generations Conference](#)**

*Rosario, Argentina*

15 March

### **[Presidential New Generations Conference](#)**

*Santa Clara, California, USA*

29-30 March

### **[Global Youth Service Day](#)**

11-13 April

This event, organized by Rotary's service partner [YSA](#), is an opportunity for young people to join others worldwide in community service projects.

### **[Presidential New Generations Conference](#)**

*Birmingham, West Midlands, England*

12-13 April

### **[Rotary Youth Exchange Multidistrict Taiwan Conference](#)**

*Taichung, Taiwan*

26-27 April

[Email conference chair Archi Liu](#) for details.

### **[2014 Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention Meeting](#)**

*Sydney, Australia*

30-31 May

All YEOs are invited to register for a [tour of Australia](#) 23-28 May, organized by Rotary Youth

Exchange Australia.

Do you know of an event we should add to this list? Email us at [youthexchange@rotary.org](mailto:youthexchange@rotary.org).

## Contact us

聯絡我們

Contact RI Youth Exchange staff

[youthexchange@rotary.org](mailto:youthexchange@rotary.org)

Phone: +1-847-866-3421

Fax: +1-847-556-2182

國際扶輪青少年交換委員聯絡資料

[youthexchange@rotary.org](mailto:youthexchange@rotary.org)

電話：+1-847-866-3421

傳真：+1-847-556-2182