



DISTRICT 7390 YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

*A Member of ESSEX - A Rotary
Multi-District Student Exchange*



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INTRODUCTION

The Rotary International Youth Exchange Program is a tremendous adventure which each year enables thousands of young people to travel to distant parts of the world to live and study in a different environment. The prime purpose of the program is to promote international understanding by granting young people a unique opportunity to broaden their knowledge and widen their horizons. The ultimate impact that the program will have on the lives of the students fortunate enough to participate in it is probably incalculable. Many of these young people will be leaders of their communities in the future.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. To further international goodwill and understanding by enabling students to study, at first hand, some of the problems and accomplishments of people, in lands other than their own.
2. To enable students to advance their education by studying for a year in an environment entirely different to their own and by undertaking study of courses and subjects, not normally available to them in secondary schools of their own country.
3. To broaden their own outlook by learning to live and meet people of different cultures, creeds and colors than their own, and by having to copy with day-to-day problems in an environment completely different to the one they have experienced at home.
4. To act as Ambassadors for their own country by addressing Rotary Clubs, community organizations and youth groups in their host country and by imparting as much knowledge as they can, of their own country and its problems to the people they meet during their year abroad.
5. To study and observe all facets of life and culture in the country where they are hosted, so that on their return to their home country they can pass on the knowledge they have gained by addressing Rotary Clubs, youth groups and community organizations.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Participants should be secondary school pupils in good health who will be between the ages of 15 ½ and 18 ½ at the beginning of their year abroad unless a different age range is mutually agreed by the participating Rotary Clubs and Districts.
2. Applicants must be of good character and reputation and should preferably have a history of community involvement.
3. Applicants should have above average academic abilities, and must have outgoing and pleasant personalities to fit them for the roles as ambassadors for their countries. They must have the ability to accept discipline and be capable of adjusting to new and strange conditions.
4. All applicants are selected solely on merit. Sons and daughters are eligible to participate in the program but receive no special preference in selection.

**TIMELINE FOR MARKETING OUTBOUND
PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOLS
2008-2009**

1. Visit School(s)
 - a. Spring – Late April or early May
 - b. Autumn – 2nd or 4th week in September
2. Have Guidance Office give you a time to meet with students
 - a. First period in the morning or a flex period
3. Have school announce your arrival
 - a. One week prior to your arrival
 - b. And during morning announcements
4. If your club is hosting an exchange student or if you have a Rotex nearby, have them present during your presentation to students.
5. Suggested contents for your meeting with students:
 - a. Pass a sheet for students to sign – name, phone number & email
 - b. Tell them a little about ROTARY
 - c. Why ROTARY is in Youth Exchange
 - d. Year long program (10-12 months)
 - e. Multiple host families – typically 3 in a 10 month period
 - f. High School based program – must attend high school
 - g. Safe because of ROTARY support network
 - h. Incredible preparation through orientations provided by District 7390 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee trainers
 - i. Provided an allowance by hosting Rotary club – varies by Rotary district and club
 - j. Approximate cost to family – \$7500 and variance may be higher depending on the roundtrip airline costs to country selected.
6. Process – application, club interviews (First two weeks October 2008), District Interviews and Selection (Saturday November 15, 2008 at Penn State York), Country Placement (January 2009), Club Acceptance in Host District (January thru May 2009), Orientation (January thru May 2009), departure (July-August 2009) and return (June-July 2010).

SAMPLE PROMOTION LETTER TO STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Dear Rotary Student of the Month:

The _____ Rotary Club's Youth Exchange Program would like to congratulate you upon being selected as Rotary Student of the Month from your school. We hope that this recognition of your achievements will encourage you to continue to work diligently to achieve your goals.

Rotary International offers students in the top third of their high school classes the opportunity to spend an academic year abroad to study and learn a foreign culture. The interviews for our **Youth Exchange Outbound Program** are held in October and students depart for their year of study the following August. Students may also take their exchange after graduating from high school. The enclosed flyer provides some details about this program.

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, please contact your high school guidance department or the Rotary District Office Rotary (854-7842). Tell your friends and relatives about our programs also! Again, our congratulations to you as a Rotary Club of _____ **Student of the Month!!**

Sincerely,

_____ Rotary Club
(Name and Title of Club Youth Exchange Representative)

FORMS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

www.rotary7390.org (District Website)

INBOUND PROGRAM

- Charitable Contribution for Income Tax Purposes for Host Families
- Inbound Youth Exchange Rules
- Inbound Youth Exchange Guidelines
- Tracking Forms for Counselor's Use
- Interactive First Night Questions ([link to rotary.org](http://rotary.org))

OUTBOUND PROGRAM

- Outbound Youth Exchange Rules and Guidelines
- Country Selection List
- CSI – Bolduc Medical and Personal Liability Insurance
- Student Application
- Interactive First Night Questions ([link to rotary.org](http://rotary.org))

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteer Affidavit for Youth Exchange
- Waiver Form to Authorize ESSEX to Conduct Background Checks
- CFR 62.25 (Federal regulations)
- Student Protection Policy and Reporting Flow Chart

OTHER MATERIAL AVAILABLE AT DISTRICT OFFICE

- Video on Student Protection Policy
- CD of 7390 Youth Exchange Master Manual
- Marketing Brochures – to give to guidance counselors and interested students (25 cents each plus shipping charges)

COMMONLY USED TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

DYE: District Youth Exchange. Chairperson of DYE reports to District Governor and represents the district at ESSEX. Oversees the District Youth Exchange Program.

DYE COMMITTEE: Comprised of District Youth Exchange Officers – Chair, Outbound Chair, Inbound Chair, Rotex Chair and District Secretary along with select youth exchange representatives from clubs. This group is a steering committee for the program and also is actively involved in training of the exchange students.

ESSEX:

- Eastern States Student Exchange Rotary International's Eastern States Student Exchange Program (ESSEX) organizes all Rotary student exchanges for 35 Rotary International districts, covering 16 states in the eastern United States, Bermuda, Quebec and New Brunswick, Canada. ESSEX Country Contacts facilitate placements of students in countries.
- Members include District Youth Exchange officers from member rotary districts who are Rotarians (includes a high number of Past District Governors) with a passion for the success of youth exchange program.

LONG TERM EXCHANGE:

- A student who spends a full academic year with one to four host families in a foreign country.
- The student attends school just like the teens of their host country. While you are there, *host parents* (do not need to be a Rotarian) become your parents—they not only provide room and meals, they provide support and guidance.
- While the student is abroad, their host Rotary Clubs also provide assistance, including a monthly allowance and opportunities to meet other Youth Exchange students, make new friends, and see new things.
 - **HOST CLUB:** Receiving Club which receives an *Inbound* Exchange Student
 - **SPONSOR CLUB:** Sending Club that sends an *Outbound* Exchange Student

SHORT TERM EXCHANGE:

- Rotary's Short-Term Exchange presents opportunities for students to advance their knowledge and world understanding by allowing them to visit in different country for a limited period of time. Participating students live with host families in their selected country for three to six weeks in the summer under the sponsorship of a local Rotary Club.

REBOUND: A former long-term youth exchange student.

ROTEX:

- An organization of past Rotary Exchange Students whose purpose is to improve international communication at the personal level; to aid in the selection and preparation of future exchange students; to assure a continuity of both domestic and international friendships; to sponsor activities in keeping with the purpose of Rotary Youth Exchange.