

Rotary International District 7390



Rotary Youth Exchange
General Information for South Central PA
Schools, Students & Families

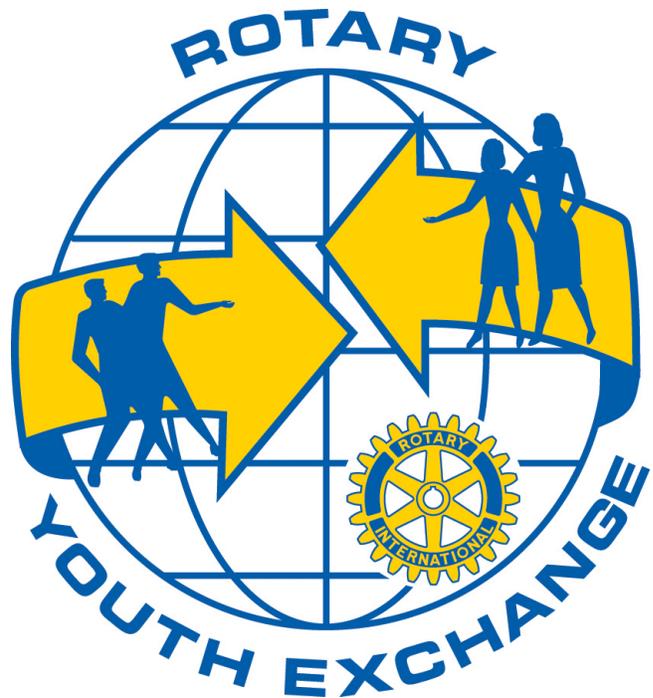


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Introduction

This guidebook includes information on Rotary Youth Exchange's history, objectives, the different kinds of Youth Exchange Programs that are available, costs, and the robustness of Rotary District 7390's participation over the years. In addition, selected testimonials are included from past and/or current host families, parents, exchange students and club president/counselor.

Core Values

It is our expectation that all Rotary 7390 exchange students, host families, Rotarian and non-Rotarian participants in the program embrace and model our Rotary District 7390 (South PA) "Statement of Values," including: treating all individuals with mutual respect and dignity, protecting and safeguarding exchange students, celebrating unique backgrounds, viewpoints, skills and talents of all participants and promoting honest and socially responsible communication. See the full core values document at www.rotary7390.org



Acknowledgements

Many thanks go to all of the school administrators/staff, host families, parents, exchange students and Rotary clubs and volunteers throughout the district that have made dreams a reality for exchange students and enriched the lives of all participants over the past thirty plus years. Many thanks also go to the people who have been instrumental in sustaining Rotary Youth Exchange within their respective Rotary club, school and district.

Not your *typical* exchange

The Rotary Club's International Student Exchange Program **offers more** than just residence in a foreign country — it offers students a chance to

make a difference in the world

and **support Rotary's efforts overseas.**

What is the Rotary Youth Exchange?

The Rotary International Youth Exchange (RYE) is a high-impact cultural immersion experience that enables thousands of young people to travel to distant parts of the world each year to live and study in a different environment.

The program aims to promote international understanding by granting young people a unique opportunity to broaden their knowledge and widen their horizons. The long-term impact of the program is immeasurable.

The ultimate impact that the program will have on the lives of the students fortunate enough to participate in it is incalculable. Many of these young people will be leaders of their communities in the future.

History of Rotary

"Few there are who do not recognize the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world."

— Winston Churchill

The Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program, which began in

1929

has become one of the **most respected exchange programs** in the **world**.

Each year, more than

7,000 students from more than **80 countries**

participate in the program.

Rotary International is the largest and oldest international service organization in the world. With more than 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries, it is a respected network of people whose overall mission is to build bridges of friendship, tolerance and understanding and to make the world a more peaceful place in which to live.

The strength of the program lies in its international network of thousands of Rotary volunteers who donate their time and resources to help improve their local communities and our international community.

The RYE program provides an opportunity for outstanding students from all walks of life to study abroad for an academic year, with the local Rotary Club underwriting most of the costs. Only exceptional students who qualify are invited to represent Rotary as Youth Exchange students.

Objectives of the Rotary International Youth Exchange

Further international goodwill and understanding

by enabling students to study, first-hand, some of the problems and accomplishments of people in lands other than their own.

Enable students to advance their

education by studying for a year in an environment entirely different from their own and by undertaking study of courses and subjects not normally available to them in secondary schools of their own country.

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.

Broaden students' own outlook by allowing them to learn to live and meet people of different cultures, creeds and colors than their own, and by having to cope with day-to-day problems in an environment completely different than the one they have experienced at home.

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 a community organizations.

Rotary Club Investments

Volunteers

Rotary provides counselors and volunteers to mentor short term and long term students and provides transportation to special events.

Background Checks

Required for all Youth Exchange Volunteers 18 and older including host family members.



Short Term Students

The cost of Rotary club meals for the Outbound, Outbound Parents and Inbound plus exchange of club banners.

Long Term Outbound Students

Approx: Minimal Cost

Includes:

- Small Club Banner
- District Fee, Monthly Rotary meals and include parents for the student pre-exchange and post-exchange student presentation

Long Term Inbound Students

Includes:

- Welcome Picnic/Party upon student's arrival
- **District Fee: Orientation/Training**
- Club Meeting Meals - Min Monthly
- Meeting Meal for Host Families to hear Inbound's farewell presentation
- **Monthly Allowance (min \$100/mo.)**
- Occasion-appropriate gift
- Host Families typically pay for school lunches or make lunches if they are making lunches for their own high school children, however some clubs in the district are paying the school lunch
- Exchange of Club Banner with Inbound
- Foundation Dinner
- Purchase and/or provide cell phone allowance

Costs to Student

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program costs *much less* than other exchange programs.



This is due to the fact that the program is made up largely of Rotarian volunteers, monthly club stipend and host families providing food and lodging.

Cost of Rotary Trips is extra.

Long Term Outbound Approx. \$7,000 + Host Country Trips

Includes:

- District Fee (\$1200)
- Roundtrip airfare
- Health/liability insurance
- passport
- Visa
- Language school
- Any needed translation of documents

Short Term

The costs for Short Term Exchange are less expensive because of the very short duration of the program.

Includes:

- the cost of airfare
- typically one month health/liability insurance
- an ESSEX fee of \$125
- District Fee of \$75
- passport

What Makes District 7390 *Unique*

Rotary International Youth Exchange sets itself apart from its competitors because it is managed by Rotarian volunteers who have a passion for working with youth and adhere strongly to Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

Club 7390 is certified by Rotary International annually to participate in Youth Exchange conducted with other RI-certified Rotary Districts **throughout the world**, and is supported by Club and District Rotary Youth Exchange officers who have been **background-checked, referenced and cleared to work** with Youth Exchange.

More than

600

students

34

clubs

43

countries

Rotary District 7390 is privileged to be able to provide a safe, educational and meaningful exchange program for students and families in Central Pennsylvania. It continually demonstrates its success in the world and in the community:

- *One of the largest & most highly dedicated Rotary District Youth Committees in the world*
- Code of Conduct document selected by Rotary International as a best practice
- *World-class procedures for selection and training of students*
- Families serving as host families for as many as 3 to 5 years
- *Volunteers who have continued to work with the program for many years*
- Outpouring of Rotarians who volunteer to help with district interviews

Program Testimonials



"The Youth Exchange Program
touches lives,
both ways, forever!
One of the *best &*
most rewarding
things I've ever done."

— **Juan Garcia-Tunon**, *Past Assistant District Governor,
Past Carlisle Rotary Club President and Current Club YE
Counselor*

“We can never repay Rotary enough for what they have done for our two sons and daughter.”

Mother of three Outbounds, 2011



“She will always be a part of our family.”

– Host Parent of an Inbound from Finland

“

My wife and I were tremendously impressed with the **thoughtfulness, care, and engagement from the local Rotary club and District 7390** towards our daughter and her exchange. My wife and I felt very comfortable that we could trust the Rotary team/system/support. **You are all to be commended for running a first class program and have created tremendous opportunities for these young men and women.**”

“It was one of the toughest things (if not the toughest thing) I have ever done, and I grew more in that year (emotionally, intellectually and culturally) than any other time in my life.”

– Outbound to Germany in the early 1980s, in a letter to D7390 in December 2011

– Father of an Outbound, 2012

“Rotary Rocks! I know Slovak and Czech! I am going home knowing two new languages!” *– Outbound to Slovakia, 2007*





Long-Term Outbound Program



10 months



25 countries



Mid-August through June

In the long-term outbound program, students will experience one-way school, cultural and home stay exchange for 10 months in another country.

The program is three-pronged:

- **1st year:** Student prepares for exchange.
- **2nd year:** Student experiences immersion and is a student ambassador.
- **3rd year:** Student reenters the U.S., re-integrates and reflects while helping out as a Rotex with District events.

Candidates in the top 33 percent of their class and are involved with activities and positive behaviors are preferred. The Rotary Club counselor is assigned to the 7390 Outbound and maintains monthly contact.

Note: *ESSEX will not allow a member District to send out more outbounds than the total number of D7390 Rotary Clubs' inbound commitments.*



Long-Term Inbound



10 months



District 7390



Mid-August through June

A one-way school, cultural and home stay exchange for a student from another country to spend approximately 10 months hosted by a Rotary Club in District 7390.

Inbounds are assisted in assimilating in their new culture through District mandatory events, including:

- Inbound Orientation, Holiday Gathering, Winter Orientation in addition to supporting club overnights throughout the year for the students. The Inbounds will have available to them a three-day NYC trip in early November and a 30-day USA Bus Trip at the end of their year.
- Rotary Club is responsible for ensuring transportation of Inbound to DYE events.
- There is no restriction in the number of Inbounds hosted by District 7390, but the number of inbounds determines the number of outbound long-term exchange students.

The Rotary Club's Responsibilities

- *Ensuring clearances for all volunteers and host families*
- *assigning a club counselor*
- *recruiting & qualifying host families*
- *obtaining school placement approval, registering student and assisting with course selection*
- *paying Inbounds monthly stipend plus cell phone allowance*
- *inviting student to Rotary Club meetings & service projects*
- *remitting fee to District Youth Exchange to help offset ESSEX costs of placement and District Youth Exchange events.*

Short-Term Program (STEP)



2-4 weeks



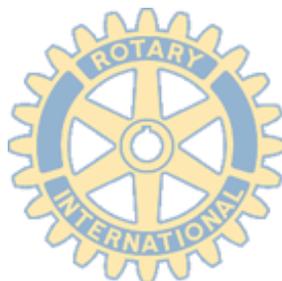
15 *countries*



4-8 *weeks total*

A direct two-way cultural and home stay exchange for a total of 2-4 weeks each way.

- Choice of approximately 15 countries and match is based on gender, age and interests
- Once paired, STEP students will spend a total of 4-8 weeks together, typically over the summer.
- Respective parents of the exchange students serve as the host family for each other's child.
- A Rotary Club counselor is assigned to the 7390 student and the inbound student.
- Amount of travel or sightseeing in the student's host country will vary by host family.
- There is no restriction on number of STEP students participating in the program



Clubs Participating in Youth Exchange Over the Past 30 Years

Akron	Harrisburg Keystone	Paradise
Annville	Hershey	Perry County
Carlisle	Lancaster	Red Lion
Carlisle Sunrise	Lancaster NE	Southern York County
Colonial Park	Lancaster South	Susquehanna Township
Donegal Area	Lebanon	Upper Dauphin
East Petersburg	Littlestown	West Shore
Elizabethtown	Mechanicsburg	West York
Ephrata	Mechanicsburg North	Wrightsville
Gettysburg	Mount Gretna	York
Hanover	Mount Joy	York North
Harrisburg		

Participating Countries Over the Past 30 Years



Argentina	Finland	Philippines
Australia	France	Romania
Austria	Germany	Slovakia
Belgium	Iceland	South Africa
Bolivia	India	Spain
Bosnia	Indonesia	Sweden
Brazil	Japan	Switzerland
Canada	Korea	Taiwan
Chile	Kyrgyzstan	Thailand
Colombia	Malaysia	Turkey
Croatia	Mexico	United Kingdom
Denmark	Netherlands	Venezuela
Ecuador	New Zealand	W. Germany
Estonia	Norway	Zimbabwe

