

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM – DISTRICT 7390 GUIDELINES FOR HOST FAMILIES (B)

Hosting an exchange student can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for you and your children. It is important that all members of your family - and the exchange student - thoroughly understand the basic relationship between the host family and the student. To assist you in reaching this understanding promptly, we have compiled the following guidelines and rules based on our past experience.

Included is a copy of the "Short Rules" and "Guidelines for Inbound Students" which are reviewed during this orientation with the students. As a consequence, each student will be familiar with his or her responsibilities for the coming year.

1. Your student should become a member of your family, NOT a guest in the house. Likewise, the student is not your handyman or babysitter. As a member of your family, your student is expected to share in the normal duties and responsibilities that are assigned to your own children of the same age. As part of this family relationship, your student should address you in a manner with which you and they are comfortable (first name, nickname or Mom/Dad).
2. You are responsible for providing counsel and guidance to the student as you do for your own children. Be concerned about physical welfare, social life, school activities, and moral responsibilities. The student must respect your wishes and accept your decisions. Do NOT hesitate to say "**NO**" if, in your judgment, the situation warrants a firm stand.
3. Your student is expected to attend school regularly and maintain a reasonable standing in class work. Homework should be completed within reasonable limits governed by his/her proficiency in English. Exchange student may be excused from school to attend Rotary functions or events.
4. Some students arrive with a limited ability to understand and speak English. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT - based on our experience, most students learn English with amazing rapidity. In a matter of weeks, your student will be joining the conversation and expressing himself.
5. Guide your student in establishing acceptable standards of grooming and dress. Remember that these standards maybe somewhat different than in their country and your student will welcome your help and advice. Help your student dress appropriately for each occasion.
6. Students are told to be careful in selecting their friends and that they are not to become romantically involved with any one friend. They may date, but not "go steady" as it limits their involvement in American social life and range of activities. As host parents, you are in a far better position to guide your student in the selection of friends than anyone else.
7. Students are told not to bring large amounts of money for the year. Funds should be deposited in a savings account with MAC access with the statement going to the counselor's address. Help the student to spend this money wisely. Counsel the student in the purchase of clothing, cameras, CDS, etc. Your student will receive a monthly allowance from the host Rotary Club (\$90) that is intended to pay for incidentals, postage and other personal items. Parents may send more money as the need arises for the student's use.
8. Every student has medical and accident insurance coverage for which the premium is paid during the first 30 days of the student's arrival. This is an **accident/illness policy** - it does **not** cover physical exams, routine vaccinations, and wellness checkups. A policy booklet and insurance card will be mailed to the student's Rotary counselor upon receipt from Bolduc Insurance Agency. Accidents should be reported promptly to the host Rotary YE Chairman and if serious, to the D7390 YE Inbound Chair. Students are responsible for medical bills not covered by insurance, although minor illness may possibly be treated by a physician member of the host Rotary Club without cost to the student. The \$100 deductible for Plan B is the student's responsibility to pay until met. Students should carry their medical ID card with them at all times.

9. Students are NOT permitted to leave the host Rotary Club area unless accompanied by a Rotarian or adult members of the host family. Please review and use the "**Permission to Travel**" form and the guidelines on the back of the form.
10. An exchange student is **not** permitted to operate a motor vehicle under any circumstances nor get their drivers license while in the USA.
11. Students have been told that it is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to purchase, possess or consume **alcoholic beverages**. They have also been told that the possession or use of **drugs**, including marijuana, except those for justified medical reasons, will result in their being sent home immediately.
12. An exchange student is expected to accept invitations to speak to Community groups - Rotary Clubs, grade school classes, church groups, etc. as long as such engagements are not excessive in number and do not unreasonably interfere with normal school obligations. We suggest that you supervise such invitations and help the student with a calendar as a reminder.
13. Students are required to attend certain Rotary District YE Activities. A **Calendar of Events** is included in this packet and will be updated and mailed to the student and host family as necessary. A few weeks prior to each event, a mailing will be sent with details, directions, etc. An exchange student may be excused from a mandatory DYE activity only for a very important reason and only by permission from the Inbound YE Chair. The host Rotary Club and the student's counselor should coordinate transportation to Rotary events.
14. Most students make many friends and are invited to many parties, school and social functions. Some of these involve considerable travel by car. As host parents, you are the sole judge as to whether or not you wish to provide transportation for the student to these events. We hope that you can make it possible for your student to have a "normally active teen-age social life" and meet with other students from time to time, but you are NOT obligated to provide transportation to every social event to which the student may be invited. Your Rotary Club and Counselor may be asked to help with transportation to and from social events for the student.
15. Your student understands that failure to assume the responsibilities of an exchange student or failure to observe the rules and regulations of the program will be reported to the Rotary D7390 YEP Inbound Chair. When necessary, disciplinary action will be taken including the return of the student to his home country.
16. We hope these guidelines will be helpful to you. It is obviously impossible to provide written rules to cover all contingencies that may arise. As parents, we ask you to use your good judgment and apply the same rules to the activities of your exchange student as you would for your own children of the same age.
17. If, at any time, you have questions or problems, please contact the student's Rotary Counselor, Club YE Chairman, or the District Inbound Chair. We are confident that you and your family will enjoy your experience as a host family and we will be glad to do everything we can to help you achieve that goal.