DISTRICT 7390 YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM
SHORT TERM EXCHANGE STUDENT
"CODE OF CONDUCT"

The District 7390 Youth Exchange "Code of Conduct" is designed to establish high expectations of socially acceptable behavior of all Short Term Exchange Students during their exchange and continued involvement with the Youth Exchange Program under the direct care and guardianship of District 7390 Rotarians, as well as their Host and/or Sponsor Rotary Clubs and Host Families. Participants are responsible to conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully and will abide by the District 7390 policies referred to within this Code of Conduct, as well as the Rotary International & ESSEX Rules & Conditions of the Exchange previously signed by each participant and their parents. In addition they will be responsible to follow any other rules & policies of their hosting country Rotary Club. Any violations of this Code of Conduct will subject the student to disciplinary actions that may include a loss of privileges and/or total dismissal from the program. The Code of Conduct exists to maintain the integrity of the program while ensuring a safe, fair and successful experience for all participants and volunteers.

ROTARY:

- Compliance with following the 5-D's of No Drinking, No Drugs, No Dating, No Driving and No Disfigurement of Body is an essential component of the Code of Conduct. At the total discretion of the hosting club, any violations of these internationally accepted rules may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the Youth Exchange Program. Students are fully accountable for any extra expenses associated with being sent home early.
- Short Term students, once accepted into the program, agree to a commitment of participation in the Youth Exchange program including mandatory attendance at District Orientation to meet the requirements established by Rotary International. Upon successful completion of the program, STEP students will be recognized as STEP alumni, allowing them visitation privileges to any Rotary Club Meeting in the world and candidacy of assisting the District with future STEP orientation events.
- As an ambassador of a Rotary International Youth Exchange Program, it is important that you present yourself in the best possible image by dressing appropriately for the various functions and activities of your host family and at Rotary functions. Most Rotary functions will be either "business casual clothing" while others will be a little more formal requiring you to wear a Rotary Blazer (navy blue). When you are in doubt about what to wear ask for a clarification from your host parents or from those in charge of that event.
- STEP students are responsible for completing an end of Exchange Evaluation Report. The report needs to be sent to your District 7390 STEP Chairperson and a copy to your US local sponsoring club YE counselor shortly after the completion of your exchange. They will then forward them to our District 7390 Office for filing. These reports provide a way for Rotarians to find out about your exchange experience and to help prepare future STEP students for their exchange.
- The use of mobile communication technology including cell/smart phones, iPads, and iPods within the District 7390 and in your host country is a privilege and not a right of ownership. During certain Rotary functions all mobile communication devices may be temporarily collected and then returned at the end of the event. When devices are not collected they will be required to be powered off. Texting during any event is not permitted and is viewed as being disrespectful.
- District 7390 & your Hosting Rotary club will be evaluating your adherence to this Code of Conduct during your exchange. You are responsible for your conduct, but we are here to help you with difficult situations and to acknowledge your successes. When away, your sponsoring District 7390 has no input or "vote" on any

disciplinary action by your hosting club. A failure on your part to make the effort to adapt can either jeopardize the integrity of the program or possibly threaten your own health and safety requiring an early return home.

HOST FAMILY:

- Host Families are responsible for providing you with room & board and also appropriate supervision & parental responsibility. They will look after your physical & social welfare. Respect their wishes, family rules, requests and guidance. Be prepared to accept some lifestyle restrictions and changes.
- Being honest with your host family will create trust as the foundation of your relationship. They need to know at all times where you are going, who you will be with and who will be the responsible person(s) in charge. Follow the Rotary "Rules for Travel" when taking a trip outside your hosting district boundaries.
- You are a guest in your host family house, but should act as a member of the family by volunteering to help when needed and by completing the chores that have been assigned to you. (i.e. making your bed, picking up your clothing off the floor, etc.) Show appreciation to your Host Family for the many things they will do and provide for your comfort and welfare.
- Being punctual and on-time for all family activities is an important value for American families. Following your host family curfew (when you must return home) is your responsibility to uphold unless you have asked for & received special permission from your host parents.
- The majority of your free time should be spent engaging with family members to help you learn & understand different hosting family culture. Excessive time spent on the internet with family & friends back home is disrespectful & may be viewed as a problem in your ability to adapt as an exchange student. Any use of profanity or sexually explicit photographs on social media (Facebook, etc.) will be grounds for dismissal.
- Other than for religious objections, you are encouraged to try new foods and adapt to the food diet of your host family. Students should not inconvenience their host family by expecting or requesting special meals for themselves. It is understood that you may not like all foods, but it becomes a sign of respect to sample foods prepared by the family. Students are encouraged from time to time to make a unique meal or food item from their home country as a polite gesture and learning experience for your host family members.

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STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have read, and fully understand the District 7390 "Statement of Values" and "Code of Conduct" and I will adhere to the Code of Conduct and all policies of the Rotary District 7390. I understand that if I do not follow these policies that I could lose privileges and possibly could be sent home.

Student Name … ……

Student Signature ……

Country …… Rotary District (Sponsor) ……

Dated ……

PARENT'S AGREEMENT

We understand the Rotary District 7390"Statement of Values" and "Code of Conduct" for Short Term Youth Exchange Students participating within & residing outside District 7390. We understand if our/my son/daughter fails to adhere to those rules & policies he/she could face the consequences of a loss of privileges and possibly be sent home at our expense.

Parents/Guardian Signature:

Father …… Mother ……

Dated ……