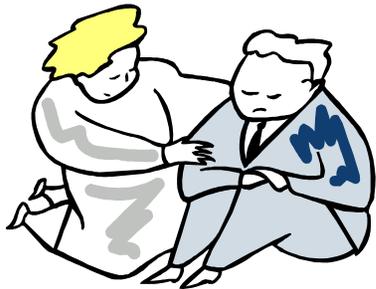


Be an Ambassador of Goodwill

Hosting responsibility can be summarized in a few simple precepts:

- Make your visitor feel at home as part of your family
- Be tolerant of differences and be willing to change your own ideas
- Guard the student against outside pressures that conflict with positive development and Rotary obligations.
- As our host mother put it: *"Open your heart and the rest will follow."*



Hosting requires empathy and an open mind.

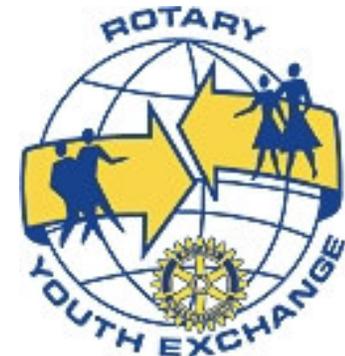
"...clasp hands and know the thoughts of men in other lands..."

What are the advantages of hosting a Rotary exchange student?

- The opportunity to share your home and love with a person from another country and culture.
- The opportunity to learn another culture from the hosted student.
- Develop a broader outlook on the world by helping a student understand *our* culture and customs.
- Promote friendship and understanding between nations.
- Participation in the best international youth exchange program available!

Borrowed From District 6220!

Rotary Youth Exchange Program



Host Family Information

Hosting is an opportunity to get in touch with an alert young person and share his or her hopes and ambitions. The experience enriches every member of the family. The student may become a big brother to a child, or a beloved daughter. Every hosting experience is unique, but all are the experience of a lifetime!

The biggest barrier to a family considering becoming a host family is "fear of the unknown." This brochure is intended as a primer for prospective host families, informing them about the program and their responsibilities as host parents.

BUILD BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Rotary Youth Exchange
promotes International understanding

There are no “perfect” family situations that make a good host family. **Any family can be an excellent host family if there is a willingness to show love and understanding to the student and a commitment to make the student a part of the family.**

Successful host families include: older couples whose children have grown up and left home; young couples with small children or no children; families with children the same age as the hosted student; Rotarian and non-Rotarian families.

Host families are assured, they have the full support of their local Rotary Club and the Rotary Youth Exchange Officer (RYEO) during the time they are hosting the student. Supporting the club is the district, and other Rotarian activities committed to the student’s well-being, and obligated to deliver a successful exchange experience for all parties.

How does it work?

The Rotary Youth Exchange is an academic program. Students are 16-18 years old, and attend their local high school, usually as Juniors or Seniors.

Most exchange students arrive in August and depart the following July. A small number of students, mainly from countries in the southern Hemisphere arrive in January and depart in December.

Typically, an exchange student stays with three different families during their exchange year, staying with each host family for about 3½ months.

The host family becomes the base of security and safety for the student. It is here that much of the knowledge of a new language and customs begins.

Generally, the first host family should make very few plans for the student during their first week in the U.S. they may need to sleep late to recover from jet lag. It’s not a good idea to rush the student into doing



things and seeing all the sights right away. The student needs time to become acquainted to new faces, schedules, food and their host family’s lifestyle.

Early in the exchange, the student should meet people of their age to ease their transition into the school.

Hosting is sharing your culture with the student, as it exists in everyday life. This does *not* mean elaborate



entertainment; it *does* mean making them a part of your family with opportunities to share in all aspects of home, school, community and nation.

Your challenge as host to this “emissary from abroad” is to rise above barriers to understanding. Hosting an exchange student requires tact, sympathy and patience. But, its rewards are great in terms of expanded horizons and understanding, to say nothing of lifelong friendships.