

What is Rotary Youth Exchange?

Your chance to travel the world, experience a new way of life, learn a new language, make new friends, live in another culture...

- Spend a school year abroad, living with host families, going to school.
- Immerse yourself for four to six weeks on the family-to-family summer exchange.

Why should I go?

Ask any returned exchange student- here's what they say:

- I learned so much about myself and the world
- My year abroad has changed me profoundly as a person
- I made lifetime memories and friendships
- My year abroad was extremely challenging at times
- My exchange opened a huge door that has led me to who I am by strengthening my curiosity, growing my understanding and compassion, and challenging my abilities to be better.

My parents are worried about my safety.

So are we! We choose our exchange partners as carefully as possible, using the Rotary network of youth exchange programs. Rotary International sets standards all exchange programs must meet, and our exchange district also checks references before establishing relationships with specific exchange partners.

Where can I go?

Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa... near and far.

- Recent exchanges include: Austria, Argentina, Bolivia, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Chile, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Spain...
- For the school year program, students are assigned countries based on interests, aptitudes and host country requirements.
- For the summer program, you request a country and we work with Rotary in that country to find a family that would like to exchange with Alaska.

How much does it cost?

First, a little perspective. How much does it cost for you to stay home? The average family spent between \$12,470 - \$17,650 to support one teenager in 2015, according to the USDA. *

- The school year program fee is currently \$9,000 but is subject to change yearly. This includes round trip airfare, costs for the international student visa and document handling, door to door medical and accident insurance, language camp and other fees that may be required by the hosting district, your blazer, name tag, patch, (the "official Rotary Youth Exchange uniform"), business cards, and attendance at the post-exchange orientation session upon return.

Rotary provides pre-departure orientation sessions at no cost to students, occurring between January and late May/June before the student's departure.

While abroad, food, housing and tuition are provided at no cost by the host families and hosting Rotary clubs. Students receive a stipend of about \$100 per month for spending money from the host Rotary Club.

Costs of clothing, personal supplies and optional tours are not covered by Rotary.

- The summer program fee is currently \$400 but is subject to yearly adjustments. This includes door to door medical and accident insurance as well as administrative fees. Airfare and other expenses are up to the family.

Will I get credit for school?

It depends on you! Talk to your school counselor as soon as you know where you are going. You may need to take extra classes before you leave, or when you return. You will need to provide documentation of classes to get any credit.

Who can apply?

For the school year program, any high school freshman or sophomore who will be between the age of 15 and 17 next August can apply.

For the summer program, any high school student can apply, ages 15 to 18.

How do I get to be a Rotary Exchange Student?

1. Apply!
2. Interview.
3. If selected, complete and submit the required paperwork in a timely fashion.
4. Be ready to commit time and energy preparing for the exchange- school year students must attend orientation sessions, monthly meetings and commit to learning the language.
5. Be willing to be an ambassador for your home country in another culture and share your experiences when you return.

Long-Term Exchange Applications are due in late October for the exchange year departing the USA in August.

Applications for the Summer STEP (Short-Term) Program are due January 31st.

Applications and details at www.ye5010.org Click on "Become an Exchange Student"

Questions? Call a Rotary Youth Exchange volunteer at your Local Rotary Club:

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* per the USDA, see the full report at <https://www.cnpp.usda.gov/sites/default/files/crc2015.pdf>