

Rotary
District 6600



**Rotary Youth
Exchange**

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT AND FAMILY TOOLKIT



WELCOME TO ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you'll spend up to a year living with host families and attending school in a different country.

Whether you participate in Rotary's long-term or short-term Youth Exchange programs, you'll learn a new way of living, a great deal about yourself, and maybe even a new language. You will be an ambassador, teaching people you meet about your country, culture, and ideas. You can help bring the world closer – and make some good friends in the process.

For over 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. More than 80 countries and over 8,000 students each year participate in the program, which is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs.

GLOBALLY MINDED

Rotary clubs are made up of volunteers who are involved in community service, emphasize high ethical standards, and work toward peace and understanding in the world. Over 1.2 million Rotarians in more than 32,000 clubs create the extensive network that provides support for Youth Exchange.

A COMMITMENT TO YOUTH

Rotary is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Youth Exchange.

LOW COSTS

Rotary club volunteers administer the program at the local level, which helps keep costs low for students and their families. These volunteers often offer years of experience with students, host families, and fellow Rotarians who are involved in the program.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Rotary Youth Exchange is open to young people ages 15-19 worldwide. There are two basic types of exchanges: long-term and short-term.

LONG-TERM EXCHANGE

- Ages 15-18 1/2, Full academic year
- Involves living with a few host families and attending a local school

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE

- Ages 15-19, Several days to several weeks long
- Does not involve attending high school
- Can include home stays, tours, and international youth camps

STUDENT SELECTION

Students for either exchange are selected by a sponsoring Rotary Club on the basis of a written application and personal interview. Students, parents, and school counselors should contact their local Rotary Club for assistance with the application process.

OHIO-ERIE MULTIDISTRICT YOUTH EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Rotary District 6600 is a member of the Ohio-Erie Multidistrict Youth Exchange Committee, which includes 10 districts in Ontario (Canada), Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Ohio-Erie manages the placement of outbound students in over 35 countries around the world and assists inbound students with matches within the 10 districts.

For more general information from Rotary International, click [here](#).

FOR ASSISTANCE IN APPLYING TO BE A YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT, CONTACT:

George Costaras, Youth Exchange Chair, 440-899-2646, d66oorye@yahoo.com

YOU'RE STILL HERE? OUTSTANDING!

Read on to find out what you need to start exploring a short- or long-term youth exchange opportunity.

LONG-TERM EXCHANGES

Long-term outbound students spend a full academic year with host families in a foreign country. They attend school, just like other teens in that host country, and are active participants in the lives of their host families.

While abroad, host Rotary Clubs provide assistance, including a monthly allowance and opportunities to meet other Youth Exchange students, make new friends, and experience an entirely new culture.

READY TO APPLY FOR A LONG-TERM EXCHANGE?

- [Ohio-Erie Youth Exchange Country Information](#)
- [Outbound Student Application and Participation Information](#)

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES

FAMILY TO FAMILY EXCHANGE

Rotary International has sponsored a Youth Exchange program for more than 30 years. Through the Short Term Exchange Program, young people from many different countries get the opportunity to spend a summer together, learning about different countries and cultures.

OUR PROGRAM

Your son or daughter will be hosted by his/her matched family in another country for four weeks during the summer. Your family will reciprocate by hosting your matched international student for a similar period. For example: students traveling to Finland

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will exchange in reverse, with the Finnish students arriving here in June and our students traveling to Finland in July. Some of the Southern hemisphere countries have "split-exchanges" with each student traveling during their appropriate school vacations (typically December-January). Due to conflicts with school calendars, it is always possible that students may have the added bonus of attending school for a week during their exchange. Click [HERE](#) to see a marketing brochure on Short Term Exchanges from Rotary International.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Students pay an application fee to Rotary District 6600, airline tickets, and health insurance. The total fee is usually less than \$2,000 for the complete program. Specific breakdown of the complete expenses are found in the "Rotary District 6600 Short Term Youth Exchange Program Application."

READY TO APPLY FOR A SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE?

- [Request for Information](#)
- [Rotary District 6600 Short Term Youth Exchange Program Application](#)

This resource is useful for students considering either a long- or short-term program,

- [Youth Exchange Handbook](#)

Remember, the first step in becoming an exchange student is [CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB](#). Once approved by the local club, students must attend district interviews and, following that approval, will attend orientations that are designed to prepare the student and his/her family for this unique experience.

Still need some help finding your local Rotary Club? Work with your high school guidance counselor to find a local Rotarian to help you engage the process or e-mail your questions to d66oorye@yahoo.com.

YOUR ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE COMMITTEE IS HERE TO HELP!

District 6600 Rotary Youth Exchange

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