

The success of the program can be best judged by the personal endorsement of participants. Here are just three examples of the many received each year.

One student's response

My youth exchange year was one of incredible change and growth for me. In addition to see so much of the rest of the world, and making such wonderful friends, I changed in ways I never knew were possible. I am more confident and positive when meeting new people. I have a greater ability to empathize with others and to put myself in their place when making judgments. I have greater willingness to take on roles and tasks to which I am unaccustomed. I have more ability to see myself objectively, in a more realistic context. I understand more fully my own strengths and weaknesses. I am more tolerant of ambiguous situations and more open to differing interpretations of them. I feel greater respect and appreciation for my family. And most of all, I feel more surely that common bonds unite all human beings. Thank you, Rotary for the best year of my life.

and another response.....

I get it... I understand what this program is all about... understanding... An exchange never ends, it continues forever because the only thing guaranteed in life is change... the only thing to satisfy change is understanding, and the only way to truly achieve understanding is adaptation. Rotary gives you an opportunity to WITNESS change in understanding through adaptation, first hand. And that is truly a miracle, that is how and why world peace can be achieved... It begins with an outgoing person, a shy person, a misunderstood person, to link the world together. We are all so different but yet so alike, that it is actually possible to change the world, one person at a time, one year at a time. So... whose turn is it next? Don't let change happen without you... Keep that as a promise to yourself, and you will have the time of your life...

and a final endorsement from another exchange student.....

It's everything I've waited my whole life to find. There are no thanks great enough to give Rotary for what you've given me. Thank you Rotary, for making me a citizen of the world. You've helped to provide me with the confidence, knowledge, and love that I know now will last a lifetime. If there's one thing I aspire to be, it's a Rotarian; so that I can make this experience possible for other kids like me looking for a home in a country where they don't belong.

Rotary District 5040 Youth Exchange Programme

(This promotional material originally developed
by
Australian Rotarian Stuart McDonald)

What are the goals of Rotary Youth Exchange?

- Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth;
- To promote world peace and cultural understanding;
- Encourage leadership, cultural and language skills.

Rotary Youth Exchange Statistics

- More than 9,000 students exchange globally each year.
- 96% of students successfully complete their exchanges each year.
- 95% of all Rotary Districts participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.
- 92 countries around the world have district chairs to support Youth Exchange.



- an opportunity to develop your personal self confidence and maturity
- an opportunity to develop a lifetime of international friendships
- an opportunity to develop a real understanding of many different cultures
- an opportunity to develop new language skills
- an opportunity to develop a base for future education and career goals
- an opportunity to develop in many ways

Rotary Youth Exchange - an opportunity of a lifetime



Youth Exchange today - Cultural tolerance tomorrow

Long-term exchanges

The first organized student exchange between Rotary districts was arranged in 1958 between the U.S.A. and Australia and expanded rapidly to other countries. These exchanges were initially included as an activity of the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Board endorsed the program in 1972. The 50th anniversary of the present long term programme was celebrated in 2008.

Exchanges last for about eleven months, or a full academic year of the student's home country. This may create an overlap of two different school years in the host country. During the exchange, the student will live with more than one host family — typically three different families for three to four months each — and must attend high school.

Eligible applicants are first interviewed and selected on merit, based on academic and personal qualities such as maturity. Students should preferably be between the ages of 16 years and 17 years 6 months when they depart in August. An outstanding older applicant may be considered. Sons or daughters of Rotarians are eligible to apply but receive no preference.

Exchanges take place in more than 90 countries. The actual exchange countries vary from district to district. These all provide their own unique experience and culture. As well as being academic, the exchange is a chance to learn about a different culture and a new language.

The cost of the exchange is shared by the student and their parents as well as the host Rotary club. The parents pay the cost of getting to the exchange country, any travel whilst on exchange and personal expenses. The host club arranges host families, pays school fees and provides a small monthly pocket money allowance to the student. The host club guarantees to provide a caring environment, personal support and counseling to the student during the duration of the exchange.

Being involved in the exchange program is both a fulfilling and rewarding experience for everyone. It will give your members and their families an opportunity to experience a new and different culture, and a chance to promote their own culture.



The Rotary Youth Exchange Program

is a once in a lifetime experience, a year full of new discoveries about the world and the student themselves. It is a year of adventure, fun, a learning experience, developing new relationships and the exciting challenges of immersion in a new language and culture.

Getting involved

Each year, Rotary districts worldwide arrange through their member clubs thousands of international Youth Exchange experiences for high school-aged students.

As described, there are two principal types of exchanges, long term and short term.

How can I find out more?

Talk to your local Rotary Club Youth Exchange Chair!

Ninety five per cent of Rotary Districts worldwide are involved in the Youth Exchange program

Further information and promotional material is available from your local Rotary Club or at this website www.d5040youthexchange.ca/



Short-term exchanges

The first short term exchanges between clubs occurred in 1927. These were arranged by the Rotary Club of Copenhagen. In 1929 similar exchanges were arranged by the Rotary Club of Nice. These were holiday exchanges of usually two weeks duration with no schooling involved.

Short-term exchanges are available between many countries. These vary from a few weeks to three months in duration. In District 5040 this programme is known as the Rotary Overseas Summer Exchange (ROSE) programme. You will not usually attend school on a short-term exchange, but you will most likely live with a host family. Eligible applicants are aged 15 to 17-1/2.

Two families from different countries are matched and they then arrange for one of the two students to travel to the other's home for a few weeks — usually during the summer break. Then both participants travel to the other country, where the visitor stays for a comparable period.

