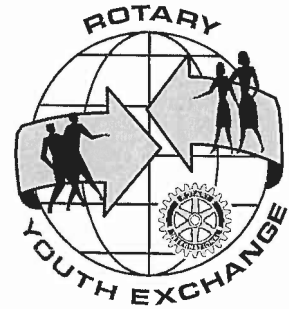


# Rotary District 5110

## Youth Exchange for 2018-19 School Year

### FAQs for Host Families



#### **What is Rotary Youth Exchange?**

Rotary Youth Exchange is a program that sends high school students for a year of study abroad to learn a new culture and create international understanding. They attend high school and stay with Host Families (usually 3 during the school year). The goal is to help them learn a new culture and language, and to create “young ambassadors” who will contribute to international understanding during the rest of their lives.

#### **Who can be a Host Family?**

Any family can volunteer -- families with children, couples, even individuals. They need not be a Rotary family; they need not have teenage children. They might be single parents or same-gender couples, with approval of the student and their natural parents. There are some rules for qualifying that are set by the U.S. government, aimed at ensuring the safety of the students. These include background checks, personal references and home inspections to check living arrangements for the student. Trained Rotary volunteers help families complete the process.

#### **Where would the student be from?**

Current exchange partners are Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and Thailand. This list changes a little every year.

#### **Who chooses and trains the students?**

Rotarians in our partner countries choose and train the students. The U.S. Consulate in their country interviews the student and approves their visa. Volunteers in our district review their applications before we place students in communities, and Rotarians at the club and district level work with the students throughout the year.

#### **Is there any reimbursement for the Host Family?**

No, that is forbidden by federal law. However, the local Rotary Club pays for the student’s mandatory school fees, school lunches and provides a monthly allowance to the student (typically \$100-\$250). The local clubs usually pay for some other expenses at their option. Those families who itemize their tax deductions can take a deduction of \$50/month for housing a student; check with your tax preparer for details.

#### **What if there is trouble?**

Trained Rotary volunteers are available to help in every community where we place a student. They do everything from answering a question by phone, checking on the students and family each month, to personal intervention. The key is good communication at all times.

#### **For more information, please contact your local Rotary Club!**

Or contact Curt Rymer, Rotary Youth Exchange Program Administrator

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