

ROTARY DISTRICT 6080 YOUTH EXCHANGE GUIDELINES, RULES & CONDITIONS

OUTBOUND STUDENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGE -- The student must be in high school at the time of application, and should be in the age range of 15 ½ to 18 ½ when he/she departs for the host country. A LIMITED NUMBER of countries are willing to accept students older than 18 ½.

EXCHANGE YEAR -- This is a school year program. Departure is usually from late July through August. Return is usually June through July. Actual dates depend upon the school year of the host country.

SCHOOL -- This is a high school (pre-university) program. Students will be attending high school in the host country. Requests for instruction at a higher academic institution cannot and will not be accommodated. If student has already graduated from high school, he/she will still be expected to attend school full time and make every effort to succeed.

SCHOOL CREDIT -- Students should NOT expect to receive a diploma or to graduate from high school in the host country. Credits for course work taken in another country cannot be assured. Transferring of course credits will depend on the policies of the student's home high school and the foreign high school he/she will be attending. The student should discuss this issue with his/her high school counselor IN ADVANCE so that he/she knows what to expect.

INSURANCE - Insurance is mandatory. For most students, the appropriate insurance policies will be purchased by District 6080 prior to student's departure, as part of the Flat Fee. Insurance will include an Accident & Sickness Policy and a Liability Insurance Policy. Some policies are underwritten by US based carriers, but insurance from some foreign carriers will need to be purchased through the Youth Exchange organization in the host country. If the latter is the case, the student will be reimbursed the appropriate amount of the flat fee so that the insurance can be purchased upon arrival in the hosting district.

NOTE TO PARENTS: We caution parents NOT to let their child's current medical insurance lapse during their exchange year. We require additional insurance because many HMOs, PPOs, MCNs, and other health insurance plans do not provide sufficient coverage outside of the U.S., and we do not want medical treatment, if necessary, to be jeopardized in any way because of insurance related issues.

COSTS -- The **Flat Fee** of \$4350 (\$200 from the sponsoring club and \$4150 - from the student's family) covers the cost of airline tickets, insurances, any language camps, required Rotary clothing, business cards, pins, flags orientation sessions, training materials, attendance at the District Conference and post-exchange gatherings. The student has the opportunity to earn a \$400 refund if he/she completes the entire exchange and completes the specified post-exchange requirements. **Students/Parents** will be responsible for all costs incurred to secure a passport and visa, any gifts or personal items, an emergency medical fund of \$400 (this is refundable if not used), personal expenses and all phone/internet/computer charges. In addition to room and board, the host Rotary Club will provide the student a monthly allowance. (This amount varies from country to country.)

APPLICATION and ACCEPTANCE and PAPERWORK

APPLICATION SPECIFICATIONS -- The application MUST be typed and all signatures MUST be in blue ink. Student must submit a complete transcript of his/her high school course work along with the application.

PASSPORT – As soon as a student is accepted into the Rotary Youth Exchange program, he/she should IMMEDIATELY apply for a passport. This can sometimes take MONTHS, so it is important to start the process as soon as possible. All passports must be valid AT LEAST six months beyond the student's return to the United States.

COUNTRY CHOICES -- Country choices are NOT guaranteed, though a student's preferences are always taken into consideration. Rotary District 6080 reserves the right of final determination in assignment of country. If the student does not wish to accept the assignment he/she should notify the District Rotary Youth Exchange Chair, via e-mail or phone, immediately.

PLACEMENT – The Student will be notified of his/her specific placement as soon as it is received from abroad. However, it is advisable that the student continue to make plans for the next year's high school or higher education in the unlikely event that the placement does not materialize.

VACCINATIONS – Generally students do not need additional immunizations for the countries with which we exchange. However a quick check of the Center for Disease Control website is a good idea.

ORIENTATION -- Students **MUST** attend the Orientation Session(s) provided by District 6080. Attendance at the Orientation session(s) is **MANDATORY** for students and **at least one parent**. Questions and/or problems relating to this requirement should be directed to the District Rotary Youth Exchange Chair or Outbound Chair.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS --

(1) All travel arrangements to and from the host country will be made by the District 6080 Travel Coordinator. Travel dates will be based upon the preference of the host country and the school start and end dates. Some countries require arrival and departure on specific dates, other countries are flexible within a two week window prior to the start and end of the school year.

*** Frequent Flier miles will NOT be accepted for use when booking flights. ***

DURING THE EXCHANGE YEAR

TRAVEL -- This is a cultural exchange **NOT** a travel exchange. All travel in and around the host country is to be considered a privilege and is subject to the rules of the hosting Rotary District and Multi-District Exchange Program.

REGULAR REPORTS -- Students are **required** to submit monthly status reports to the sponsor Rotary District (and to the host district, if requested) during the exchange year.

ROTARY OBLIGATIONS -- There are certain host Rotary Club and host Rotary District functions that will be mandatory during the year. This will vary considerably from Club to Club. However, Rotary activities take precedence over any other activities or events and students are expected to participate as much possible with their host club and families.

ROLE AS AN AMBASSADOR -- Students are expected to do their best to maintain a positive attitude throughout the exchange year, and act appropriately as an ambassador for Rotary. Students must do their best to adapt, adapt, adapt to their host families and friends.

VISITS -- If a student's natural parents or relatives plan to visit during their exchange, arrangements should be made only during the last third of the exchange year, preferably when school is not in session. **ALL** visits **MUST** be **APPROVED IN ADVANCE** – first by the **host Club Counselor**, then by the host Rotary Club, and finally by the host family. Students must avoid putting their hosts in the awkward position of agreeing to a request which they might not be comfortable with, and should solicit the guidance of their Rotary counselor **BEFORE** asking their

host parents. **ALSO**, we recommend that family members NOT visit during the last week or two of the student's exchange. This time should be reserved for saying good-byes to host families and friends, NOT for hosting the student's own family.

PROBLEMS -- Each Outbound student is assigned a Club Outbound Counselor in District 6080. Additionally, each student is assigned a Club Inbound Counselor in the hosting Club. This support network is in place to assist with any questions or problems. However, students and parents should understand that if there is a problem in the host country, the student should talk to his/her host club counselor FIRST. It is important to follow the correct "chain of command" when dealing with problems. Failure to follow protocol could create hard feeling between Rotary Exchange Partners and may jeopardize future exchanges.

RETURNING HOME -- As stated above, students will be expected to complete their ENTIRE exchange and stay until the end of the school year. Early voluntary return home is NOT permissible without the consent of the Host District Youth Exchange Officer. Unless agreed to by the host family, students should plan to return home shortly after school closes to avoid imposing on the host family and host Rotary District. Return travel arrangements will be made by the Transportation Coordinator.

STRICT RULES AND CONDITIONS OF EXCHANGE --

Violations will result in the student's immediate return home.

(1) **DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** -- Students are not allowed to possess or use any drug or drug-related paraphernalia

(2) **DRIVING** - All Driving is prohibited. Driving recreational or other motorized vehicles not requiring a license is also prohibited.

(3) **ALCOHOL** -- For those students LEGALLY permitted to drink in their host countries, and permitted by their host family to do so, excessive use of alcohol and drunkenness are forbidden and will not be tolerated. NOTE: If you are arrested for public intoxication, your Visa may be cancelled and you may be sent home.

(4) **DATING** - We want all students to have a broad experience during their exchange year. This means integrating with LOTS of people. For that reason, we expect students NOT to date any one person "seriously". Having many boyfriends and girlfriends is fine, having ONE is NOT!

(5) **PIERCINGS & TATTOOS** -- The piercing or tattooing of any part of your body during your exchange year is prohibited.

(6) **PORNOGRAPHY** -- No pornography is permitted. Downloading pornographic material from the internet will result in your immediate return home.

COMMON SENSE RULES AND CONDITIONS OF EXCHANGE --

Violations will result in a district review and restrictions. Severe/Consistent disregard for these rules will result in being returned home.

(1) **LANGUAGE** -- Unacceptable language skills may require tutoring. Any necessary tutoring is at the expense of student's parents or guardians. Students who do not demonstrate an effort to learn the language of the host country may be sent home.

(2) **TELEPHONE & E-MAIL** -- Use of the telephone/computer/internet are at the discretion of the host family, within overall guidelines established by your host Rotary District. Students are responsible for all charges generated by such use. Telephone, e-mail, and chat

room communication should not become excessive, or interfere in any way with host family activities or with student's ability to develop friends in the host country.

(3) **GUIDELINES & CONDITIONS** -- All other DISTRICT 6080 / SCRYE and sponsoring and hosting Rotary District Rotary Youth Exchange Guidelines & Conditions not listed in the Rotary International rules or these additional rules, must also be fully complied with.

We have read and understand the above Guideline, Conditions and Rules of Exchange, and will abide by them.

Student Signature _____ Date_____

Parents Signatures _____ Date_____

_____ Date_____

YE Witness _____ Date_____