

## **Host Family Responsibilities**

- Room and Board\*
- Comfortable home environment
- Moral support
- Love and laughter
- Sharing of family traditions
- Respect for student culture and religion
- Study time and place
- Language assistance
- Guidance and discipline
- Telephone and internet supervision
- Assistance with banking procedures
- Oversight of social activities
- Fostering friendships with peers
- Cheering and encouragement

\* Board includes school lunches (either brown bag or cafeteria) if not provided by the school.

Note: Families receive income tax credit for hosting a student. Refer to IRS Publication 526.

## **Things to watch for...**

- Homesickness
- Language issues, miscommunication
- Culture shock, cultural differences
- Religious differences
- Appearance and hygiene
- Diet and food problems
- Personal conflicts
- Bad habits
- School attendance and grades
- Sibling rivalry / jealousy
- Problems with sleeping arrangements
- Romantic involvement
- Lack of Rotary support and assistance

## **Rotary Club's Responsibilities**

- Youth Exchange Officer & Counselor
- Monthly allowance
- Oversight of budget and handling of funds
- School registration and events
- Guidance in appearance, hygiene, discipline
- Changing host families
- Emergency back-up home
- Special needs
- Medical insurance processing
- Club visits
- Participation in Rotary functions
- Cost & transportation for Rotary weekends

## **The Six D's**

All students agree to the following:

- No Drinking                    • No Driving
- No Drugs                        • No (steady) Dating
- No Disfigurement (Tattoos, Piercings)
- No Disgracing Hosts, Rotary or Country

These rules exist to protect both students and families; any violation could result in the student's being sent home early.

## **The Six B's**

All students are urged to...

- Be first - Take the initiative
- Be curious – Ask, Seek to understand
- Be focused - Have goals and pursue them
- Be grateful - Express appreciation often
- Be of service - Give of themselves
- Be here now – District 7120 is home!

*Rotary has been facilitating successful student exchanges for many years, and will do everything possible to assure the success of your family's involvement as well. So invite the world to your doorstep and provide a young student--and your family--with an unforgettable experience!*



## **Bringing the World to your Doorstep**



## **Information for Host Families**

**Rotary District 7120**  
[www.rotarydistrict7120youthexchange.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7120youthexchange.org)

# **Life-changing experiences, lifelong relationships**

Have you ever longed to visit a foreign country and encounter a different culture? Hosting a Rotary Exchange Student is an opportunity to bring the world to your doorstep without ever leaving home, and to provide your family with an enriching, unforgettable experience.

## **Who are the students?**

Bright, adventurous young people from all around the world are recruited and screened by local Rotary Clubs to be ambassadors to other lands for a year, living as part of a family, attending high school, and getting to know their communities in a way no short-term vacation could ever equal. Your family can be part of this exciting program by hosting a Rotary Exchange Student.

## **Who are the families?**

Host families may have children the same age, older or younger siblings, or none at all. All you really need is an extra bed, a curiosity about other countries and cultures, and hearts big enough to welcome a foreign child to be treated as one of your own.

Generally three different families in the school district serve as hosts for a student, for three to four months each. In this way, Rotary shares students with more of the community and the students are able to experience different families' interests and lifestyles to get a better overview of life in the Finger Lakes region.

Host families have the fun of introducing students to new foods, activities, events, and the natural beauty and historic places of the Finger Lakes region, while simultaneously

learning about their student's home country, culture and customs.

## **What is Rotary's role?**

Students are sponsored by the local Rotary Club and report to its Youth Exchange Officer (YEO), who oversees the student's experience and well-being throughout the year. The YEO also serves as a resource for your family, providing transportation, assistance and advice, as needed. The exchange program is backed by the resources of Rotary District 7120, which encompasses eight counties in the Finger Lake region, and by Rotary International.

Rotary also hosts get-togethers every month or two for all the exchange students in the district, giving them an opportunity to forge relationships with all the other nationalities represented in our area.

## **Students today...Leaders tomorrow**

By hosting a student, you help to shape perceptions and attitudes toward the USA of young people who may go on to assume leadership roles in their own countries. What an educational and enjoyable way to contribute to international understanding and promote global citizenship!

## **How to find out more**

Interested? Wonderful! Contact your Rotary Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) or the District Youth Exchange Committee for more information. Visit our website at [www.rotarydistrict7120youthexchange.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7120youthexchange.org)



# **Your Rotary Contacts**

Rotary Club: \_\_\_\_\_

YEO: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## **District Youth Exchange Committee**

District Chair: Julie Carney 585 519-9466  
[juliecarney7120@gmail.com](mailto:juliecarney7120@gmail.com)

Inbound Chair: Nancy Loughlin 607 425-4530  
[nkloughlin@gmail.com](mailto:nkloughlin@gmail.com)

Outbound Chair\*: Gretchen DiNardo 585 739-4630  
[gdinardo@outlook.com](mailto:gdinardo@outlook.com)

Youth Protection Officer: Larry Evarts 585 746-4230  
[levarts001@rochester.rr.com](mailto:levarts001@rochester.rr.com)

\* The Outbound Program enables students from your community--possibly your own child--to apply for long term or short term exchange. For information please contact the Rotary Club or Outbound Chair.

## **Host Family Testimonials**

*"It was unexpectedly the most incredibly rewarding experience(s) to our family. Having an exchange student changed our family's world viewpoint. It has also given us the confidence to send our own daughters on exchanges and international travel."*  
Dr. Clay & Chris Cole

*"I absolutely loved the experience of hosting an exchange student through Rotary. The Rotarians helped us to understand the process and expectations; they stayed in touch, making the experience smooth and enjoyable. It opened our eyes to appreciate the lives and culture of others, but made me realize how much we take for granted - the words we choose to use, the foods we eat, how we spend our family time and holidays, and our personal perspectives on our country, its history and customs. There is so much to learn and appreciate from hosting!"*  
Marcia Backes