

GENERAL INFORMATION

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICTS 5950 & 5960 YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE COMMITTEE welcomes applications from youths who may be qualified for an opportunity to participate in one year of international living in another country. Countries with which we currently exchange are listed on the back of this sheet. Administered by the host and sponsor Rotary clubs and districts, the experience will include one academic year of study in a high school.

Rotary International is a world-wide organization comprised of more than 32,100 Rotary clubs with 1.2 million members in 166 countries. Under this program, youths must be between the ages of 15 years and 19 years at the time of departure.

A Youth Exchange applicant who is successful in being selected by the Rotary club, and who is then further interviewed and selected by the Rotary District Youth Exchange Committee, will have the opportunity for this overseas experience. The applicant may be male or female. There is no requirement that he or she must be from a Rotary family.

Students applying should be prepared to tell about their participation in school, and other activities. During their interview, applicants will discuss their knowledge of their community, state and nation, world problems and affairs, and their spirit of helpfulness in the community and home. Both parents must be present at each interview session and, if selected, subsequent orientation sessions. (In one-parent families, only the parent with whom the candidate lives is required to attend.)

Though it is preferred that the student going abroad has studied the language of the country to which s/he is going, fluency is not always a requirement. Students are encouraged to enroll in an introductory language course prior to departure. During the orientation period, every effort will be made to prepare the student for living abroad. While overseas, the student will live in Rotary-approved homes and will become a member of the host family.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE CANDIDATES

OBJECT OF THE PROGRAM:

- Further international understanding and goodwill.
- Learn and adapt to another culture, while sharing your own.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS:

- At least 15 years of age, but cannot have turned 19 years of age at the time of departure.
- Student must be a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in high school at time of application.
- Student must demonstrate scholastic competence and be involved in extra-curricular activities.

THE SELECTED STUDENT WILL:

- Attend high school in their host country.
- Act as a student ambassador, sharing customs and adapting to the host country's culture.
- Demonstrate a willingness to be flexible throughout the exchange process.
- Follow the rules, regulations and counseling of the sponsoring and host Rotary clubs and Rotary districts. Rules will be discussed at orientation sessions.

THE PARENTS OF THE SELECTED STUDENT WILL:

- Pay cost of participation fee (which includes transportation, orientation materials, basic insurance, blazer, etc.)
- Pay costs of passport, visa or residency permit and related costs, inoculations, gifts, local travel, personal items.
- Abide by the rules and decisions as set forth by the Rotary International Youth Exchange Committee here and in the host country.

SPONSOR ROTARY CLUB (sending student) WILL:

- Interview and recommend applicants for the Youth Exchange Program.

ROTARY CLUB IN HOST COUNTRY WILL:

- Correspond with student prior to arrival, giving pertinent data of the host city and family.
- Meet and transport the student from point of arrival to host family.
- Furnish one year's education in a high school.
- Be responsible for the physical well-being of the student.
- Supervise the student's activities, opportunities and experiences.

Listed below are the countries (subject to change) with which we anticipate exchanging during 2007-2008. Following the country is the maximum age that a candidate may be as of departure, expressed in years/months. Some of the countries that list 18/6 as the maximum age *may* consider older candidates. This will be determined on an individual basis. No candidate who will become 19 years of age on or prior to a country's anticipated departure date will be considered. (Note: the receiving country has the option to determine the approximate departure date. Most students depart in July or August.)

Argentina	18/0	Lithuania	18/6
Austria	18/0	Mexico	18/6
Bolivia	18/6	New Zealand	17/0
Brazil	19/0	Norway	18/0
Chile	18/0	Paraguay	18/6
Czech Republic	18/6	Poland	18/6
Denmark	17/11	Slovakia	18/6
Ecuador	18/6	South Africa	18/3
Estonia	18/6	South Korea	19/0
Finland	18/6	Sweden	18/11
France	18/6	Switzerland	18/0
Germany	18/0	Taiwan	19/0
India	18/6	Thailand	18/6
Japan	19/0	Turkey	18/6
Latvia	17/0	Venezuela	18/6

IMPORTANT: Students who have, practice, are being treated or have been treated for the following may qualify for the program, but may have limited choices, depending on the host country's requirements:

- Vegetarians may choose India, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand *only*. Our exchange countries will not accommodate vegan requirements.
- Age restrictions (See above)
- Medical / psychological conditions
- Tattoos / piercings

Note: France requires French language proficiency (you must take the French Language Proficiency test on Interview Day), and does not accept candidates who have tattoos/piercings.

Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Japan and Switzerland may require language camp upon arrival in host country (student's expense). List may be subject to change.