



Discover Your World: Short-Term Youth Exchange



Rotary International
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Rotary International

Are you ready to ...

- ✦ *Form international friendships,*
- ✦ *Learn to communicate anew,*
- ✦ *Gain a fresh understanding of yourself and others,*
- ✦ *Immerse yourself in a different culture,*
- ✦ *Appreciate others' ways of doing things, and*
- ✦ *Act as an ambassador for and educate others about your country?*

Then you are ready for Rotary Youth Exchange!

What are the options for short-term exchanges?

- ✦ **Homestays.** These can be arranged for individual students; for example, an Australian youth spends a few weeks in Sweden and then a Swedish student visits Australia. Homestays are also frequently arranged for groups of students.
- ✦ **Tours.** Some short-term exchanges are structured as tours through one or more foreign countries. They may involve groups of young people from a single country or several countries.
- ✦ **Camps.** Short-term exchanges may also be organized as international youth camps that bring together students from several countries, provide leadership training, and address international concerns, or they may simply be the means whereby students from different cultures get to know each other. Popular in many countries are camps involving both able-bodied and disabled young people.
- ✦ **New Generations Exchanges.** Open to people ages 18-25, this option is ideal for recent high school graduates and Rotaractors. Usually lasting three to six weeks, these exchanges may be for individuals or groups, and can involve homestays, tours, or camps. The standard Rotary Youth Exchange application may need to be adapted for older participants.

What is Rotary?

Rotary is the world's oldest service club organization. Members representing a cross section of the community's business and professional leaders meet weekly in clubs that are non-political and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

With "Service Above Self" as their motto, Rotary clubs provide service in the community, workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians also encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and build goodwill and peace through programs like Youth Exchange.

Rotary Youth Exchange is administered by Rotary clubs and districts. With more than 29,500 clubs worldwide, an extensive network of volunteers is ready to ensure the necessary support for the program. Rotary clubs have sponsored successful international youth exchanges for more than 30 years.

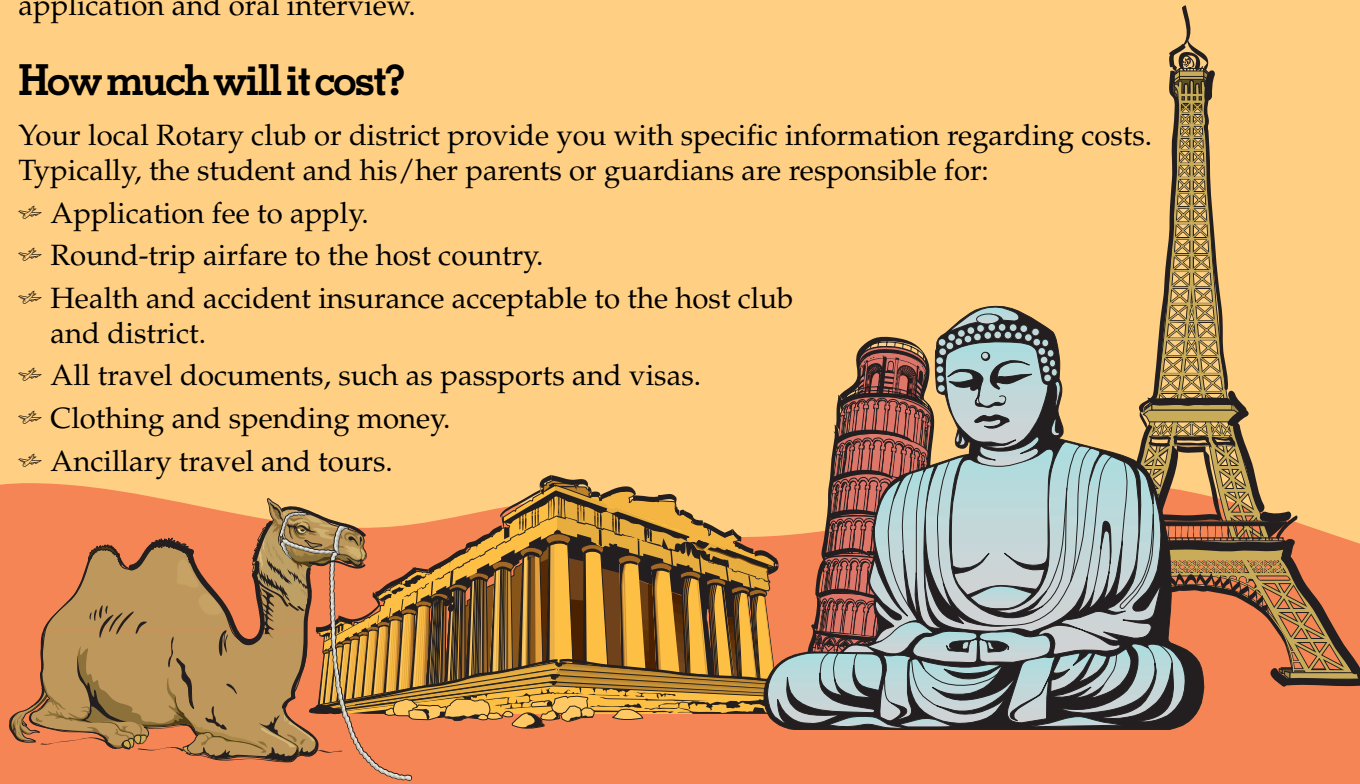
Who is eligible?

Rotary's Youth Exchange programs are open to qualified students ages 15-19, relatives of Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. The age range for the New Generations Exchange is 18-25. To qualify, applicants should be above-average students who demonstrate leadership in their community. Candidates should also possess qualities which will enable them to become excellent cultural ambassadors, such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things. All applicants must be sponsored by a local Rotary club and complete a written application and oral interview.

How much will it cost?

Your local Rotary club or district provide you with specific information regarding costs. Typically, the student and his/her parents or guardians are responsible for:

- ✦ Application fee to apply.
- ✦ Round-trip airfare to the host country.
- ✦ Health and accident insurance acceptable to the host club and district.
- ✦ All travel documents, such as passports and visas.
- ✦ Clothing and spending money.
- ✦ Ancillary travel and tours.



What are my responsibilities?

- ✦ Agree to abide by all program rules of your host Rotary club and district.
- ✦ Accept the supervision of your host district, host club, and host family.
- ✦ Act as an ambassador of your own country.
- ✦ Be open to new experiences and cultural differences.

Where will I go?

Your placement depends upon a number of factors. However, Rotary clubs may operate exchanges with any country in which a Rotary club exists. Contact your local Rotary club for more information on where programs operate. Remember: Wherever you go, you will discover that the world is smaller than you once thought, and that you can gain a great deal from the unique experience of being a Rotary Youth Exchange participant!

What past participants have to say:

"An invaluable experience."

— A U.S. exchange student to South Africa

"Now I have forever two families and two homes."

— An Argentine exchange student to the U.S.

"Being exposed to so many new things each day is very tiring, but it is what makes a youth exchange one of the best and most treasured memories of life."

— An English exchange student to Japan

How do I apply?

Contact your local Rotary club for details.

