

Sample Interview Questions

For the student:

1. What activities do you participate in outside of school?
2. What languages do you speak other than your native language?
3. What opportunities have you had speaking in front of groups?
4. What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
5. What types of books do you read? How many books do you read each month?
6. Why did you apply to become a Youth Exchange student?
7. What do you think is the most important thing about representing your community and country abroad?
8. Describe three issues that are facing your country today.
9. What world event interests you?
10. Have you ever spent any time away from home? If so, where did you go and for how long?
11. Who is a role model to you? Why?
12. Describe your greatest accomplishment.
13. If someone asked you to do something that you did not think was appropriate, how would you handle the situation?
14. Give an example of a personal weakness. How do you think that this will affect you on your exchange?
15. Do you have responsibilities at home? If so, what are they?
16. Do you think that you will get homesick? If so, how will you handle it?
17. Will you attend church with your host family if they are of a different faith? How do you feel about this?
18. How would you go about meeting friends in a new country?
19. What leadership roles have you assumed in school or in extracurricular activities?
20. How do you plan to share your experiences with family and friends when you return home?
21. What is the most difficult decision that you have had to make?
22. What is the most difficult or challenging situation you have faced in your life?
23. What was the happiest day of your life?
24. The customs and food will be very different from home. How will you assimilate?

For the parents of the student:

1. How do you feel about your son/daughter going abroad for a year/several weeks?
2. Your son/daughter has expressed interest in traveling to other countries. Do you have any immediate concerns about the countries chosen? Are you willing to let your child go to any Rotary country?
3. Do you think your son/daughter will be homesick? If so, how will you deal with it, and how will you help him/her cope with feelings of homesickness?
4. Do you understand all of the rules of the program? Do you think that your child will be able to abide by them?
5. Whose idea was it to apply for the program? Are you entirely committed to let your son/daughter go on the exchange?
6. Have either of you traveled abroad?
7. Will you object if the student is placed with a family of a different religion?
8. Does your son/daughter enjoy trying new things?
9. Will your son/daughter eat a variety of foods?
10. Does your son/daughter have any medical concerns that we should be aware of?
11. Are you planning any major lifestyle changes while your son/daughter is abroad (e.g., divorce, marriage, moving)?
12. Is any member of the family seriously ill? If so, would you expect the student to return home for a funeral?
13. Would you be willing to host a student from another country in your home? How would you foresee him/her fitting in? How would you make the student feel at home?
14. What advice would you give as your son/daughter were boarding the plane?
15. Do you have any reservations/concerns at this time?