



A BRAZILIAN STUDENT MAKES HER FIRST SNOWMAN IN FINLAND, A SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS EATING WITH CHOPSTICKS AT HIS JAPANESE HOSTS' HOME, AN AUSTRALIAN BECOMES PART OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY IN RUSSIA, AND A MEXICAN STUDENT IN FRANCE RAISES FUNDS TO BENEFIT HOMELESS CHILDREN IN HAITI.

NEW EXPERIENCES, NEW "FAMILIES" AND FRIENDS, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE MAY AWAIT YOU, TOO.

Are you ready to . . .

- ✧ *Form international friendships,*
- ✧ *Learn new ways to communicate,*
- ✧ *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!

This year, about 7,000 young people will see the world the way it is meant to be seen — from the inside out — through a Rotary Youth Exchange program. This could be your year!

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you will spend a year living with a host family in a country other than your own. You may learn a new language; you will learn a new way of living — and a great deal about yourself. But there's more. While you're busy learning, the people you meet will be learning, too — about your country, your culture, and your ideas. You will be a young ambassador. You will be helping to bring the world closer together — and you will be making some good friends in the process.

If you are ready for the challenge — and the rewards — of living in another land as an exchange student, then you are ready to discover new worlds through a Rotary Youth Exchange program.



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Youth Exchange: Making a World of Difference



Rotary International

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 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 Youth Exchange programs are open to qualified students ages 15-19, relatives of Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. 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?

Because Rotary Youth Exchange is administered by Rotary clubs and districts, only your local club or district will have specific information regarding costs. Typically, the student and his/her parents or guardians are responsible for:

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ An emergency fund for your use during the year.

What are my responsibilities?

- ✦ Agree to abide by all program rules of your host Rotary club and district.
- ✦ Accept the supervision of the 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?

Youth Exchanges may take place wherever Rotary clubs exist. Contact your local Rotary club for more information on where its programs operate and whether or not you may select a specific country. 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:

"The year I was away from home, I met friends from all over the world, and suddenly places like Croatia and Poland weren't dots on a map." — A Zimbabwean exchange student to Canada

"Those short 12 months were the beginning of a strongly developed interest in international relations." — An exchange student from The Netherlands to the U.S.

"The opportunities that the Rotary program gives students to participate in family life, school, and social activities — and to learn the language and customs of a different culture — are certainly working toward . . . peace." — A Brazilian exchange student to the U.S.

"Rotary Youth Exchange is a step above any other program because of the thorough orientation, loving host families, and the support of two entire Rotary clubs, at home and in our host country." — A U.S. exchange student to Japan

"I would recommend this experience to anyone . . . It makes a world of difference." — An English exchange student to Peru

How do I apply?

Contact your local Rotary club for details.