

Rotary Youth Exchange in Western Australia Fact Sheet



Objectives of the Exchange Program

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program generally provides for the selection and sponsorship of students in the 16 to 17 age group to travel to another country to spend twelve months attending a secondary school and living with host families in that country.

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1. To further international goodwill and understanding by enabling students at first hand to study some of the problems and accomplishments of people in lands other than their own.
2. To enable students to advance their education by studying for a year in an environment entirely different from their own and undertaking study courses and subjects not normally available to them in secondary schools of their own country.
3. To broaden their own outlook by learning to live with and meet people of different cultures, creeds and colours from their own, and having to cope with day to day problems in an environment completely different from the one they have experienced at home.
4. To act as Ambassadors for their own country by addressing Rotary Clubs, Community organisations and Youth Groups in their host country and by imparting as much knowledge as they can of their own country and its problems to the people they meet during their year abroad.
5. To study and observe all facets of life and culture in the country where they are hosted so that on their return to their home country they can pass on the knowledge they have gained by addressing Rotary Clubs, Youth Groups and Community organisations.

Who is Eligible?

1. Rotary Youth Exchange students must be 16 years old and have not turned 18 years of age by 1 January in the year of departure from Australia.
2. Applicants must have above average academic ability and must have an outgoing and pleasant personality to fit them for the role as an Ambassador for Australia. They must have the ability to accept discipline and be capable of adjusting to new and strange conditions.
3. Applicants must be of good character and reputation.
4. Sons and daughters of Rotarians are eligible for Youth Exchange but receive no special preference in selection. All applicants are selected solely on merit.

Obligations

Obligations of Rotary

1. The District Youth Exchange Committee has the obligation to select and adequately brief outgoing students, and arrange for Rotary Clubs in another country to host each student for one year.
2. After selection of students, the District Committee will make every endeavour to place them with host Rotary Clubs abroad who will pay a monetary allowance and will maintain liaison with the host Clubs throughout the Exchange year to ensure smooth functioning of the Exchanges.

Obligations of Students

1. Students are expected to obey the laws of the host country at all times, and accept discipline of the host school and the host parents. Students are expected to adapt to the home environment of the host families - the host families are under no obligation to adapt themselves to the student.
2. The student is an Ambassador for Australia and must at all times behave in a manner which will reflect credit on his or her family, community and country.
3. Students will not be permitted to form romantic attachments with a boy or girl friend. Going out, preferably in company will be tolerated, but for obvious reasons romantic involvement is to be strongly discouraged to the extent that an applicant breaching the rule could be sent home.
4. Students must return to Australia at completion of the year. Students will not be allowed to stay after the termination of the school year.

Obligations of Parents

1. The parents are required to provide the cost of transporting of the student (including all costs for visas, passport and air departure taxes) to and from the host country. This cost varies considerably and depends on the final destination of the student and whether he or she travels singly or under a group or a student concession.
2. The parent is required to take out a \$10,000 temporary life policy and adequate medical and hospital insurance to cover the student for the twelve months in the country in which the student is being hosted.
3. Parents will provide clothing for the student while abroad, and will also provide and maintain an emergency fund of \$400 which can be drawn on with the consent of the student's counsellor or host parents.

Specific Information and Rules for Outbound Students

1. You **must** attend school during the year of your exchange.
2. Passport, visa insurance and return transport costs including excess luggage and airport tax are the responsibility of you and your parents.
3. Your travel arrangements are to be made through the official Youth Exchange Program travel coordinator.
4. Interstate travel and distant travel is permitted, but only with proper adult chaperoning. You may not tour alone or with other students. All travel must be approved by the host and sponsor District Chairman, host club and your own parents (in writing). A complete itinerary of every trip must be filed with the host District Chairman 6 weeks before the journey commences.
5. Hosting of the students is the responsibility of the host club. In case of difficulties you should consult your host parents, followed by the Counsellor, Club Youth Exchange Officer and finally the District Chairman in that order.
6. Your parents are to provide and maintain a \$400 revolving emergency fund. This is to be used for clothing, and emergencies. A monthly allowance will be arranged for by the host club for spending money and incidentals.
7. A briefing Session will be held shortly after arrival to discuss all phases of the program and to aid in planning. Your attendance is **required** at these meetings.
8. Questions or problems related to this program may be directed to the Chairman of the Youth Exchange Committee.
9. If you have relatives in the host country they will have no authority over you while under the supervision of the program.
10. You should become an integral member of the host family, assuming duties and responsibilities normal to a student your age.
11. Do not address your hosts as Mr and Mrs; arrive at a comfortable arrangement, "Mum" and "Dad" for example. Refer Questionnaire for New Host Family, which will be supplied at a District briefing.
12. Choose your friends slowly and wisely as you will have many social opportunities. You do not have to accept the first invitation. Trust your hosts to aid you in developing a respectable circle of friends.
13. Your hosts are responsible for you socially, spiritually and physically. You will respect their wishes and requests. Their society may be different to ours and some guidance and restrictions are to be expected and advisable.
14. You are **NOT PERMITTED TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE OF ANY KIND!** This includes boats, tractors, motorbikes, aircraft or any motorised vehicle, or participate in dangerous activities such as gliding or hang gliding.
15. You are **NOT PERMITTED TO USE DRUGS**, except for valid medical reasons as prescribed by a physician.
16. **DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.**
17. Smoking is discouraged.
18. You **must** avoid romantic attachments. Remember you must return home on completion of your exchange.
19. Your attendance may be required at Rotary sponsored events.
20. Rotary Exchange students are not to undertake full or part-time employment for reward.
21. Any costs due to the student's early return home or any other unusual costs incurred by or on behalf of the student shall be the responsibility of your own parents.

Timetable for Rotary Youth Exchange Program for Outbound Students

1. Applications must be lodged in writing on the form obtained from this web site with the Rotary Club nearest to the town or suburb in which the student normally resides.
2. Initial application closes with the local Rotary Clubs on 15th March in the year prior to the departure of student.
3. Local Rotary Clubs Committees will interview students and their parents and will recommend suitable students for further consideration by the District Selection Committee.
4. Recommended students to be interviewed by the District Selection Committee will be required to complete three (3) copies of the official application for Rotary International Youth Exchange program, giving:
 - Personal particulars and background
 - General information relating to the applicant
 - Applicant's school activities
 - Endorsement of sponsoring Club
 - Guarantee form by applicant and parent
 - Medical and dental examination
 - Parental/guardian release form
 - Principal's report
5. Completed applications for Rotary International Youth Exchange close with the District Committee on 30th April. (No applications will be accepted unless accompanied by the local Rotary Club's nomination fee).
6. District Selection Committee will interview all applicants recommended by individual Rotary Clubs within their District and will make a selection of students to be sent abroad subject to the District Committee being able to secure host agreements from Rotary Clubs abroad. No student is to be regarded as a Rotary Club's Youth Exchange Student until officially accepted as such by a host Rotary Club in another country.
7. District interviews will be completed by 30th June.
8. The District Committee will endeavour to arrange for an exchange with the country of the applicant's first choice but where this proves impossible to arrange, reserves the right to negotiate a hosting agreement with a Rotary Club in another country.
9. Briefings for outbound students will be held in October and December.
10. Students selected by the District Youth Exchange Committee will depart from Australia in January for twelve months.

Application Process

1. Find the Rotary Club location **NEAREST** to your normal place of residence from the list on the Applications page of the WA Rotary Youth Exchange website at <http://www.youthexchange.asn.au>.
2. Having selected the appropriate Club, click on the Club name to access the Contact Details for that Rotary Club. **NOTE that you can only apply to ONE Club.**
3. From the Club's Contact Details page, download the **APPLICATION FORM**, available as a self-extracting Fillable Form. The Form can be **saved** to your computer's Hard Drive for completion offline.
4. Complete the Form **IN FULL**, entering data in **ALL** necessary fields, and ensuring you provide **ALL** requested information. The form has **three** pages. Page one and two are to be completed by the Applicant. Page three is to be completed by the Applicant's School Principal.
5. **PRINT** the completed Application Form.
6. Ensure all necessary **signatures** and **attachments** are included.
7. **MAIL** the Form to the selected Rotary Club using the contact details provided.