What is Rotary?

Rotary International is a global organization of business and professional leaders dedicated to humanitarian service, ethical standards, goodwill, and peace. With over 1.4 million members across 46,000 clubs worldwide, we address issues like poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and clean water, while fostering future leaders through career development and mentoring programs.



Get Ready for the Adventure of a Lifetime

Every year, nearly 9,000 students from nearly 100 countries participate in Rotary Youth Exchange. Are you interested in:

- immersing yourself in new cultures
- forging lifelong international friendships
- and challenging yourself as an ambassador?

If so, you have what it takes to be a Rotary Youth Exchange Student! Spend either a short term or long term program seeing a new country and making lasting friendships. You can participate in long-term exchange, a short-term family-to-family exchange, or an international camp/tour.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have the strength,patience, and passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

— Harriet Tubman

Am I Eligible for the Exchange Program?

Rotary Youth Exchange welcomes students aged 15-19 (age restrictions may vary by country). Successful candidates are above-average students who have shown leadership in school and their community. Traits like curiosity, flexibility, and a sense of adventure are essential. All applicants are sponsored by a local Rotary club, guiding them through an online application and in-person interview.



Be Part of Something Great!

Learn more from your local Rotary club, or contact us!

NorthStarRotary.com
763.200.4036
Office@NorthStarRotary.com

Four Great Reasons to Get Involved with Rotary Youth Exchange

1. **Get the experience of a lifetime learning a new culture and sharing yours**
2. **Share in the mission of building world peace, one student at a time**
3. **Join a global network of leaders that promote peace and goodwill**
4. **Form meaningful relationships to last a lifetime**

Open Your Door to the World.

Join the Exchange Program. Make Lifelong Connections.



GET INVOLVED

STUDENTS & HOST FAMILIES WANTED!

NORTH STAR Rotary 5950 & 5960 YOUTH EXCHANGE



Long-Term Exchange

The purpose of the year-long exchange program is to further international understanding and goodwill. You'll spend approximately 10–12 months living and studying in another country. Students attend a local high school, live with two to three host families, and become immersed in the language, customs, and everyday life of their host country. Through this experience, students develop independence, adaptability, and lifelong friendships while serving as ambassadors for your own culture and community.

Short-Term Exchange

The Short-Term Exchange Program offers students an opportunity to experience another country and culture during the summer. Students can choose a family-to-family exchange, where they spend approximately one month living with a host family abroad and then host their exchange partner in their own home, or participate in an international camp or tour lasting one to several weeks. This program helps students build friendships, develop cultural awareness, and gain international experience without committing to a full school year abroad.



"The thing that surprised me most was how different my host families were from each other, yet how welcoming and loving they all were." — Ava Minocherhomji, former Youth Exchange student from India

Be A Host Family!

Being a host family requires patience, empathy, and flexibility, but the rewards are immense. You are creating a lifelong connection and opening your home to a life-changing experience, not just for the student, but for your entire family.

Students and host families attend orientation programs to prepare them for the exchange, covering what to expect emotionally and culturally, and receive ongoing support. Still, arriving in a new country for a student can be both exhilarating and overwhelming.

As a host family, your role is to provide a warm, supportive home environment. You'll help them navigate daily life in the U.S. while also learning about their culture, traditions, and perspective. This exchange offers both student and host family a deeper appreciation for the values and experiences that connect us all.

Learn more about being a host family at **NorthStarRotary.com/HostFamilies**.



Where Do Students Go?

More than 30 countries welcome US RYE students, offering a wealth of exciting destinations. Visit our website for a current list of participating countries. Keep in mind that each country has its own policies and age restrictions. During the application and interview process, you'll list several countries of interest and we'll do our best to match you. The final decision is yours. Wherever you go, you'll discover the word is smaller than you once thought, and the unique experience of being immersed in another culture is an exciting adventure beyond imagination.

How Much Does it Cost?

The North Star Rotary Youth Exchange is primarily funded by local Rotary club scholarship fundraising and district support. Students pay a flat fee covering airfare, medical and liability insurance, orientations, materials, and a Rotary blazer. Students and their families (not host families) will cover personal expenses, including travel document fees (passport/visa), spending money, unexpected expenses, and personal travel and tours during the exchange. Need-based financial aid is available.

How Do I Apply?

Begin by visiting our website at **NorthStarRotary.com** where you can find more information about Rotary Youth Exchange and the online application.