

Inbound Student Travel Policy

Travel for Inbound Exchange Students is a privilege, not a right:

This is an educational and cultural exchange, not a tourist exchange. Students are expected to learn the language and the culture of their host community, to become an active member of their host family, their host school and their host city or town. Travel is not allowed when it interferes with the activities of the host school, the host family or the host Rotary Club. The primary responsibility of Rotary is to keep students safe. It is important that the adults (host family, Yeo and Chairperson) responsible for exchange students know where students are, who they are with and what activities they are involved in. All travel must go through an approval process. Host parents, Youth Exchange Officers (YEO) or Counselors can deny any travel requests if there is any concern about the safety and security of the student and/or the behavior and attitude of the student. If the student's YEO is not available to begin the permission process, the student can contact their Counselor directly.

Travel and School:

Students who are not doing well in school cannot miss school to travel. Students, who are doing well in school, may occasionally miss school to travel (**no more than 10 days**). All of their homework must be current.

Students are to ask their teachers, before their trip, for the homework that they would miss while traveling. They are expected to make arrangements with their teacher for getting their homework finished and for making up any tests or exams that they miss.

School and Church Group Organized Trips:

Trips organized through school and church groups may be authorized as long as the student follows all the proper approval process.

No travel will be approved for other Rotary District's organized trips. There may be an opportunity to travel on an approved tour (ie Belo USA trip to Hawaii or New York) if it does not conflict with District 5060 Rotary trips noted below.

Groups of Students Meeting or Traveling Together:

Other than the meetings/trips that are described below, **groups of 4 or more** students are **not** allowed to travel or to meet together without the direct supervision of responsible adults involved with the **Youth Exchange Program (or approval of District Chair)**

Travel That Is Approved, Authorized, and Organized by District 5060 are as follows:

There are **5 required** district trips/meetings for Inbound Students:

1. **The Inbound Orientation** – first weekend in September after school has started.
2. **The Weekend in the Snow** – held at Silverstar Mountain resort, Vernon, B.C, **December 13-15, 2024**

3. **The Weekend in Osoyoos , B.C** – held in Osoyoos, B.C -in **February 7- 9 2025**
4. **The Outbound Orientation weekend-** held in Penticton, B.C. in **April 25-27 2025**– Inbound and new outbounds with their parents get together to discuss outbound exchange.
5. **District 5060 Annual Conference – May 1-4, 2025** in Yakima, WA and alternates between the US and Canadian sides of the district.

Optional – but highly recommended is an organized goodbye/ farewell event after District Conference and organized by the Inbound Educator around District 5060 after District Conference for Inbounds to have their last event together. Cost and location to be determined.

Travel Rules for Students Hosted by District 5060

1) In all cases we need to know:

- Where you are going
- Who you are going with
- How you are getting there
- What are the planned activities for the day
- When you will leave and return
- That you have enough money for the activities that are planned
- That you have all necessary travel documents with you
- How you can be contacted in case of an emergency, and your emergency contacts.
- The names and phone numbers of the responsible adults who will be supervising you.

2) Same Day Travel within District 5060 but not crossing the border

Same Day travel within British Columbia or Washington that begins and ends in your host town is approved by your host parents. Before they can make the decision to allow you to travel, the host family and the YEO need to have, in writing the information noted above(communicate with YEO via email with the information detailed.

Example- Student X is living in Summerland and wants to visit/ student Y who lives 40 km away in Kelowna or Vernon to go shopping/movie etc. they are taking a bus/or getting a ride with a Rotarian Z- Student/ host parent will send an email to YEO advising them of all the details as long as host family approves of the day travel.

Overnight travel in British Colombia or Washington with current host family

If you are traveling **with your current host family**, complete the Travel authorization form including the signature of YEO or Counsellor. **The student will send the travel form is to District chair or Co-Chair so it may be uploaded-** our signature are not required but the form .

Example- Student X's host parents want to take them to Seattle for weekend. Travel form to be completed by student with signature of YEO/Counselor and sent to District chair and Co-Chair so it may be uploaded.

Example #2 – Student X has been invited to stay overnight at Rotary Youth Exchange Student Y's home who lives in near by city. Student X will complete travel form and have host family and Yeo/ sign it and then send form to District chair or Co-Chair so it may be uploaded.

All Overnight Travel- not with current host family(ex. Rotarian or Yeo or other Adult) must be approved by the District Chair/Co Chair.

This travel will need the **approval of the District Chair**. For the district chair to approve the travel request, they would like to receive the completed Travel Authorization form with the requested information at least **(7) days** (if possible) before the date of departure to give the request thoughtful consideration and have any questions answered.

This travel must first be approved by your host parents and YEO(signatures). Your YEO or counselor needs to provided the travel plans (**Travel form to be completed by student**). The student must ensure they have the following information:

- The names and phone numbers of the responsible adults (Vetted) who will be supervising them.
- How they can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- That you have sufficient funds for the activities planned.
- That you have the necessary travel documents with you

The Student will complete the travel form with YEO and host family signatures and will email it to District chair or Co-Chair so it may be uploaded.

Example: Student X has been invited by a YEO or Vetted Adult to take them to Seattle from Kelowna for 3 days (**crossing border**)- Host family first signs travel form acknowledging plan and student will get YEO to sign form and send the form to District chair or Co-Chair so it may be uploaded it.

Any travel outside Canada or the United States (ie Mexico or Caribbean) must have full written permission from your natural parents before any travel will be considered. Permission from natural parents be done **first and sent to the YEO and District Chairperson prior to making futher travel arrangements. This Travel can only be done with Vetted Adult(ie host family, YEO, Counselor etc).**

IF Travel form is not completed when it's required and YEO or District Chair becomes aware of the unapproved travel, student will be issued a Yellow card (see Standards of Behavior form).

Unaccompanied Travel:

Permission for you to travel to a destination by yourself may be granted after confirmation that a responsible, vetted adult will meet you at the final destination. This would be a rare occurrence.

Example: One of Student A's host parents have a second home in Arizona and has invited student A to attend for Spring break. Host parents are in Arizona already and will be meeting Student A when they arrive at airport (**trave form required**) along with flight itinerary.

Guidelines for Parents Visiting District 5060:

Visits from your parents and immediate family members are **discouraged** but may be **permitted** only with **prior** permission from your **host club/YEO** and the **District Chair**. Visits are only permitted during the last three months of your exchange (**April to June**) and **cannot interfere with Rotary events or school**.

Visits by home country friends is **not** permitted unless there are very special circumstances and only (April – June) and this must be discussed/approved by Yeo and District Chair for approval.

Students are not permitted to return home during the exchange year, except in the case of a serious emergency.

Prior to your parents making any travel plans to visit you, or purchase any airplane tickets, their visit needs to be approved in writing (e-mail is permitted) by: the host parents, the Club YEO, and the District Chair.

Failure to get **PRE-APPROVAL** may result in disappointment and have a financial penalty if tickets are non-refundable.

Visits by parents should occur only between **April to June** and must not interfere with your school time or other required Rotary events.

Schools will only give permission for you to be absent if you are doing well in all of your classes and if you have had few previous absences.

If your parents plan to travel with you outside of **District 5060**, and this travel needs to be approved **IN ADVANCE**, they must provide a detailed itinerary of all travel on the Travel Form. Parents are strongly **discouraged** from coming at the end of your exchange year.

Family visits **will not be allowed** during the last **7 days of your exchange**. This will be a very emotional time for you and you will need this time to say your goodbyes to your new friends and Host families.

In Summary:

Our primary concern is for the safety and security of all students. We take these travel rules very seriously. Host parents, YEOs and District Chair can deny any travel requests if there is any concern about your safety and/or your behavior and attitude. If you break these travel rules, we will send you home and terminate your exchange. You should **never buy an airplane** ticket or make other financial commitments for travel until the needed permissions have been given.

Travel on the Return Trip Home

You **will not** be allowed to travel home with your natural parents and should leave from the same airport as your arrival (exception given to students in Wenatchee area due to limited connecting flights) . All students are required to return home directly with no additional travel planned.

Breaking travel rules may have a negative impact on the district's ability to get visas in the future.

You must leave the country you are staying in by Monday **July 7th 2025** .