



Rotary

District 6460 Youth Exchange

Hosting an exchange student - FAQs for clubs & host families

Who is eligible to host? Any family can be eligible, Rotarians and non-Rotarian families as well. Families can have small or teenage children at home, be empty nesters, or be couples with no children. Single adults and single parents are also welcome to host.

Are host families paid? No, host families cannot be paid. However, you will be entitled to a tax deduction each month that a student stays in your home.

What is required of a host family? As a host family, you will provide your student with:

- The opportunity to participate in your family's daily lives and events
- The same care, support, and comfort you would offer another member of your family
- A bed and a place to study. Sharing a room with a sibling of the same gender close in age is permitted.
- Three meals a day (except for school lunches)

What is a host family's financial obligation?

- Families are responsible for paying for meals and activities done as a family.
- Students are given a monthly stipend from their Rotary club, and their natural families provide additional spending money.
- The club provides money for school lunches and pays for other expenses, such as mobile phone service.
- Host families are not responsible for school fees.

Do host families cover medical expenses?

No. Students have health insurance and their natural families are responsible for deductibles.

How long do students stay with host families?

Depending on the club, families host from 3 to 6 months. A student must have 2-3 host families.

What are the rules for exchange students?

The 4 Ds - No Drinking, No Driving, No Drugs and No Dating. These are things that can get them sent home early. Other things include illegal activity (trespassing, shoplifting), smoking, as well as poor performance at school or a poor attitude/lack of assimilation.

What if problems arise? The local Rotary Youth Exchange Officer and Counselor are in frequent contact with the student and host family. Back-up host families should be in place in case a student needs to be moved quickly.

Do the students speak English? Most speak English very well. If they do not, they may be enrolled in the ESL class at the high school, or receive tutoring. Most students learn very, very quickly.

How long is the exchange student's stay in the U.S.? Students typically arrive in mid-August and leave in mid-July.

How old are the students who participate?

Students range from 15.5-18 years old. Most students turn 17 or 18 while they are here.

Am I the exchange student's legal guardian?

No. The exchange student's natural parents remain legal guardians. And, the local Rotary Youth Exchange Officer acts as guardian during the exchange, and signs all necessary documents for the student. Each student's application contains a medical release form so that host parents may secure medical treatment in the case of an emergency.

Can we pick our own exchange student? If a student has not yet been assigned to the Rotary club, you can let the Youth Exchange Officer know if you prefer a certain gender and they will make every attempt to accommodate your request. Students are typically assigned to clubs in March-May and arrive in August of the same year.

I have more questions or I want to sign up!

Contact the District 6460 Youth Exchange Chair
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