

Rotary
District 5030



Youth
Exchange
Program

**TRAVEL.
DISCOVERY.
FUN.**

Do you want to find out more? Visit rotaryyouth5030.org or email rotaryyouthexchange5030@gmail.com.

SUMMER 2026



SUMMER TRAVEL PROGRAM: Rotary Short-Term Youth Exchange

- High school student summer international exchange program
- Spend 3-4 weeks overseas with a family that has a son or daughter the same age who will also spend 3-4 weeks in the US with your family
- Travel order and schedules dependent on each student's schedule
- Exchange typically occurs between mid-June to end of August
- Program oversight by Rotary to ensure safety, quality, and equity
- Foreign language skills are encouraged, but not required.

Student & Family Eligibility

- High school students ages 15-18
- Students possess qualities such as flexibility and a willingness to try new things that will enable them to fully experience life abroad and be an excellent cultural ambassador
- Family open to hosting overseas sibling for 3-4 weeks during summer
- Application process completion

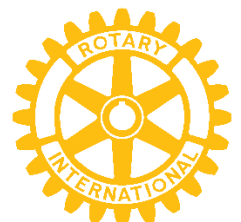
The Process & Key Dates Leading up to a Summer 2026 Exchange

- **Sep 16 & Sept 30:** Online Zoom information meetings for families
- **Nov 30:** Last day to submit completed applications
- **Dec 13:** Mandatory selection interviews and host family orientation
- **Dec 30:** Host family screening and background checks completed
- **Jan-Feb:** Host family home visits
- **Feb-Apr:** Country-to-country student and family matching process
- **May 17:** Mandatory outbound student and host family orientation
- **Jun-Aug:** Exchanges take place with 3-5 weeks in each country

Do you want to find out more?

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REASONS TO CONSIDER THE ROTARY PROGRAM FOR SUMMER EXCHANGE

- 1. Build Global Understanding and Peace:** Exchange programs help young people experience different cultures firsthand, breaking down stereotypes and prejudices. This kind of cultural immersion fosters empathy and mutual respect - key ingredients for peaceful international relations and cooperation.
- 2. Promote Education Beyond the Classroom:** Living in a new country pushes students outside their comfort zones. They don't just learn about world history or languages - they live them. They gain real-world problem-solving skills, emotional resilience, and adaptability that no textbook can teach.
- 3. Improve Communication Across Cultures:** By learning new languages and cultural norms, students become better cross-cultural communicators. These are essential skills in our interconnected world, whether in diplomacy, business, science, or humanitarian work.
- 4. Become a Global Citizen:** Exchange students often become lifelong ambassadors of cross-cultural understanding. They're more likely to pursue international work, support inclusive policies, or encourage others to see the value in diverse perspectives.
- 5. Build Lifelong Personal Connections:** Many host families and students form lasting bonds, creating international "families" that span generations. These personal relationships serve as bridges between nations and communities - grassroots diplomacy at its finest.
- 6. Strengthen International Alliances:** On a national level, governments and NGOs often support exchange programs to strengthen ties with other countries. These student experiences build goodwill and informal alliances that can have long-term geopolitical benefits.
- 7. Cultivate Leadership Skills:** Many former exchange students go on to become leaders in business, politics, education, and nonprofits. Their global perspectives influence how they lead and make decisions that impact society on a broader scale.
- 8. Rotary's 75 Year Track Record of Successful Youth Exchanges:** Rotary is an international not-for-profit organization that ensures students and families are well prepared for their exchange experience. Applications, reference, and background checks ensure the safety for everyone involved. Your local Rotary District provides a Youth Exchange Counselor to your family for questions and support before, during and after the exchange.



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