

# **General Information**

## **North Star Rotary Youth Exchange Program**

North Star Rotary Youth Exchange welcomes applications from youths who may be qualified for an opportunity to participate in one year of international living in another country. Countries with which we currently exchange are listed on the back of this sheet. Administered by the host and sponsor Rotary clubs and districts, the experience will include one academic year of study in a high school.

Rotary International is a world-wide organization comprised of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs with 1.2 million members. Participants must be between the ages of 15 years and 19 years at the time of departure.

A Youth Exchange applicant who is endorsed by the Rotary club, and who is selected by the North Star Youth Exchange Program, will have the opportunity for this experience. There is no requirement that the applicant be from a Rotary family.

Students applying should be prepared to tell about their participation in school and other activities. During their interview, applicants will discuss their knowledge of their community, state and nation, world problems and affairs, and their spirit of helpfulness in the community and home. Both parents must be present at each interview session and, if selected, subsequent orientation sessions. (In one-parent families, only the parent with whom the candidate lives is required to attend.)

### **Rules and Regulations for Rotary Youth Exchange Candidates**

#### **Objectives of the Program:**

- Further international understanding and goodwill.
- Learn and adapt to another culture, while sharing your own.

#### **Qualifications of Applicants:**

- At least 15 years of age, but cannot have turned 19 years of age at the time of departure.
- Student must be a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in high school at time of application.
- Student should be in the top ½ of their class, demonstrate scholastic competence, and be involved in extra-curricular activities.

#### **The Selected Student Will:**

- Attend high school in their host country.
- Act as a student ambassador, sharing customs and adapting to the host country's culture.
- Demonstrate a willingness to be flexible throughout the exchange process.
- Follow the rules, regulations and counseling of the sponsoring and host Rotary clubs and Rotary districts. Rules will be discussed at orientation sessions.

#### **The Parents of the Selected Student Will:**

- Pay cost of participation fee (which includes transportation, orientation materials, basic insurance, blazer, etc.)
- Pay costs of passport, visa or residency permit and related costs, inoculations, in-country language instruction, gifts, local travel, personal items.
- Abide by the rules and decisions as set forth by the Rotary International Youth Exchange Committee here and in the host country.

#### **Sponsor Rotary Club (sending student) Will:**

- Interview and recommend applicants for the Youth Exchange Program.

#### **Rotary Club in Host Country Will:**

- Correspond with student prior to arrival, giving pertinent data of the host city and family.
- Meet and transport the student from point of arrival to host family.
- Furnish one year's education in a high school.
- Be responsible for the physical well-being of the student.
- Supervise the student's activities, opportunities and experiences.

Listed below are the countries (subject to change) with which we anticipate exchanging during 2016-2017. Following the country is the maximum age that a candidate may be as of departure, expressed in years/months. No candidate who will become 19 years of age on or prior to a country's anticipated departure date will be considered. (Note: the receiving country has the option to determine the approximate departure date. Most students depart in July or August.)

Argentina	18/3	Indonesia	18/5
Austria	18/0	Italy	19/0
Belgium	18/5	Japan	19/0
Brazil	19/0	New Zealand	17/0
Chile	18/3	Norway	18/0
Colombia	18/9	Paraguay	18/3
Croatia	17/5	Poland	18/5
Czech Republic	19/0	Russia	18/0
Denmark	18/0	Slovakia	19/0
Ecuador	18/0	South Africa	18/6
Estonia	18/0	South Korea	19/0
Faroe Islands	18/0	Spain	18/0
Finland	17/0	Sweden	18/0
France	17/5	Switzerland	18/0
Germany	18/0	Taiwan	19/0
Greenland	18/0	Thailand	18/5
India	18/5	Turkey	18/0

**Important:** Students who have, practice, are being treated or have been treated for the following may qualify for the program, but may have limited choices, depending on the host country's requirements:

- Vegetarians may choose India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand only. Our exchange countries will not accommodate vegan requirements.
- Age restrictions (see above)
- Medical / psychological conditions
- Tattoos / piercing

Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Japan and Switzerland may require language instruction upon arrival in host country (student's expense). List may be subject to change.