

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

PROMOTE WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

Our Mission: Open doors to the world for your students. Every student deserves this chance! Give them the gift of cultural exchange and immersive education. Participating is an investment in their futures and the betterment of the world. Embrace the diversity of this program to enhance your school's reputation and foster a vibrant community that celebrates cultural understanding.

SINCE 1929

rotary
youth
exchange

YOUTHEXCHANGE@ROTARYDISTRICT7505.ORG

Rotary 

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS



EMAIL YOUTHEXCHANGE@ROTARYDISTRICT7505.ORG FOR MORE INFO

YEAR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Inbound students arrive

NOVEMBER

RYE Committee interviews potential outbounds

JANUARY

Outbounds assigned country

JUNE

Inbounds depart

AUGUST

Outbounds depart

Outbound students begin the application process a full year before departure.

40+ COUNTRIES

STUDY ABROAD A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR

SCHOLARSHIP

Local Rotary clubs provide sponsorship for high school students to study abroad for a full academic year covering tuition, accommodation, and meals! Students receive the equivalent of a \$100 monthly stipend. Students are responsible for their flight, health insurance, and application fees.

The RYE Committee is comprised of Rotary volunteers throughout South & Central NJ

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PROMOTE WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING



OUTBOUND INFORMATION

- High schools can assist Rotary clubs with sharing the program information with students and encouraging interested candidates to apply
- The application process starts a year in advance.
- Outbound students participate in six monthly orientations
- Rotary provides sponsorship for outbounds to attend RYLA
- Outbounds will receive the equivalent of a \$100 monthly stipend from Rotary for the duration of their exchange
- Outbounds attend Rotary club visits monthly and engage in community service initiatives abroad
- Schools may accept credits abroad as part of an option II program. Schools must determine if there is additional coursework required for graduation.
- Outbounds submit monthly reports monitored by the Department of State and are assigned a Rotary counselor abroad, who, along with the exchange committee both domestically and internationally, is responsible for ensuring student safety.

SCHOLARSHIP

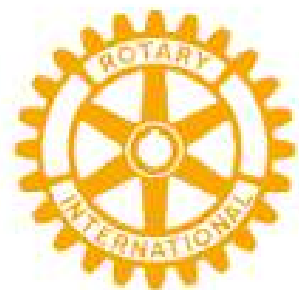
The Rotary Youth Exchange program is open to all high school students. Each selectively chosen outbound participant receives a highly regarded scholarship sponsorship from their local Rotary club, highlighting the program's commitment to making this transformative experience accessible to deserving students.

INBOUND INFORMATION

- Rotary completes all paperwork to ensure that the school is compliant to accept exchange students. The only requirement is the principal signature on the Guarantee Form, which must be obtained prior to student arrival
- Students come with a J-1 visa
- While high schools are welcome to suggest potential families and share the program information, Rotary clubs are tasked with securing host families for the inbound student.
- Rotary volunteers are vetted and receive Department of State training to ensure student safety
- The inbound student will be assigned a Rotary counselor who checks in on them monthly to ensure proper adjustment
- Inbound students undergo rigorous interviews abroad and participate in a weekend long orientation upon arrival
- Senior inbounds may walk at graduation but are not permitted to receive a diploma

The purpose of Rotary Youth Exchange is to foster international understanding. The Department of State expects that students receive free tuition, making it an accessible opportunity for participants from diverse economic backgrounds

Rotary



WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a global network of more than 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

45,000+ CLUBS IN OVER 200 COUNTRIES

EDUCATION

Rotary members have opened schools, taught adults to read, and improved literacy methods.

DISEASE

Rotary has educated communities and equipped them to stop the spread of diseases like polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria

CLEAN WATER

Rotary has provided clean water, sanitation, and hygiene such as building toilets, rainwater collectors, and handwashing stations

HEALTH CARE

Rotary builds infrastructure and clinics to improve access to healthcare in underserved communities. They also provide low-cost and free healthcare in developing areas.

PEACE

Rotary promotes peace and trains leaders to prevent and mediate conflict.

SUSTAINABILITY

Since it was founded 100+ years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

UN PARTNERSHIP

Rotary has worked with the United Nations since its inception in 1945.

COMMUNITY

Rotary clubs serve their communities and engage in volunteer service both locally and internationally

Notable alumni include Neil Armstrong, Walt Disney, Thomas Edison, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Sir Winston Churchill, Pope Francis, among Nobel Prize winners, Olympic gold medalists, world famous artists, international leaders, scientists, and many notable figures.

FOUNDED IN 1905

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youth
exchange

youthexchange@rotarydistrict7505.org

Rotary 

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EXCHANGESTUDENT.ORG

Why should our school participate?

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program offers students an affordable, life-changing opportunity for cultural exchange and immersive education. Vetted by the U.S. Department of State, the program ensures safety with trained volunteers and comprehensive health insurance through CISI. Participation invests in students' futures, enhances school reputation, and fosters a community that values diversity and mutual understanding. By connecting young people across cultures, this program broadens perspectives and encourages a more harmonious and interconnected world.

How does Rotary ensure student safety while abroad?

ESSEX and Rotary closely monitor what is happening in the regions of the countries in which it exchanges. The Rotary committee and sponsoring Rotary clubs both locally and abroad are responsible for the safety of the student. The program is fully vetted through the US Department of State and all volunteers receive student protection training. Host families must go through an extensive background check process. Students attend Rotary club meetings while abroad and get to know Rotarians who are generally the local business and professional leaders of that community. Each student will be assigned a Rotary counselor in their host country who is responsible, in addition to the exchange committee, for ensuring their safety while abroad. This includes interviewing potential host families and completing home visits, greeting the exchange student at the airport, submitting monthly reports, and maintaining frequent contact with the student. Students must also attend high school while abroad and will be in contact with local school administrators and educational professionals. Outbound students will be required to submit monthly reports to their Outbound Coordinator in the United States and will also have an assigned Youth Protection Officer.

What does the CISI Travel Insurance cover while abroad?

Outbound students will be required to purchase CISI Bolduc travel insurance to participate in the program. The plan ensures that medical expenses up to \$1,000,000 will be fully covered.

How can schools advertise the Rotary Youth Exchange program?

There are several ways that schools can promote the youth exchange program. One option is by emailing students and parents with the attached pdf. This can be done in the spring in preparation for the upcoming year or in the early fall before initial applications are due. School counselors can become familiar with the program to share with potential students. Language teachers are also a great resource for introducing the program to students who are already interested in studying foreign languages. Rotary Youth Exchange committee members are available to speak on youth exchange during club meetings, school assemblies, lunch tables, evening events, zoom Q&A sessions, among a plethora of outreach possibilities.

What is the process to become an exchange student?

It's important for students to start the process as soon as possible since applications begin a full year before departure. The first step is to email youthexchange@rotarydistrict7505.org for detailed application instructions. Students will receive an initial one page application that reserves their spot for interviews. Students and parents are interviewed with the exchange committee. Accepted students will then gain the sponsorship of a local Rotary club. Students are assigned their country placement in January and receive monthly orientation training until June.

Are educational credits transferable?

RYE is an educational program and students are required to attend high school and pass their courses. Many of our students go abroad for the full year and are able to transfer their course credits to their local high school when they return. High schools can determine whether they will accept credits or if there is additional coursework that is needed. In some cases, students have taken summer courses before their exchange year to meet credit requirements and others were able to double up on classes the following year after they return.

How much does it cost?

Rotary Youth Exchange is organized and administered by volunteer Rotarians and families locally and throughout the world. For this reason, it is the most affordable high school exchange program. The average cost of exchange for a full year is \$4,000. Students are responsible for round-trip airfare, CISI insurance, as well as the application and district fee expense. Rotary provides the student with the equivalent of a \$100 monthly stipend abroad. The cost of tuition, accommodation and meals with the host family, and monthly orientation training are included.

Are high schools responsible for finding host families?

No. While high schools are welcome to suggest potential families and share the program information, Rotary clubs are tasked with securing host families for the inbound student. Rotary completes all paperwork to ensure that the school is compliant to accept exchange students. The only requirement is the principal signature on the Guarantee Form, which must be obtained prior to student arrival. The Rotary exchange committee is trained to handle any host family conflicts that may arise and will change placement if needed.

How is the Rotary Youth Exchange program different from other study abroad programs?

Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. The program is organized and administered by volunteer Rotarians and their families throughout the world within the local Rotary club, the district, and regionally. The Rotary program is the least expensive, safest, and among the most reputable and highly regarded exchange programs. In addition to this, the Rotary Youth Exchange program provides students with the opportunity to fully immerse and adapt to living in another country. Students will attend a local high school and be adopted into their host family as if they were their own daughter or son. This is what sets RYE apart from study abroad programs. While many of our students do have the opportunity to travel in their host country through Rotary sponsored programs and with their host families, the program is designed so that students fully immerse themselves to the location that they are assigned. Students will learn to fluently speak in a new language, adapt to the customs and traditions of another country, partake in family activities and foster lifelong connections.

WHO WE ARE

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



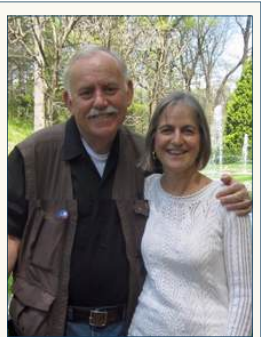
**Molly: Alumna to Belgium
Washington Township High '97**

Obtained her Master's degree in French from Tufts University and did her PhD in French at Boston University. Molly is a high school french teacher and a proud mom of two. She has maintained in contact with her host families and many international exchange friends.



**Peter: Alumnus to Germany
Ocean City High School '19**

Obtained his Bachelor and Master's from Harvard University in German Literature. First American chair of the German American Conference at Harvard Kennedy School and has returned to Germany 10 times since 2019. Met Chancellor Angela Merkel while on exchange.



**Claudia & Jack
Host Families and Rotarians**

Jack dedicated 20+ years as the Outbound Coordinator and has sent over 100 students abroad.

"If it was not a rewarding experience, my wife and I would not have hosted 14 students over the years!"



**Gwen: Alumna to Germany
Cumberland Regional '07**

Gwen later obtained her Doctor of Medicine and is a triple board certified oncologist specializing in breast cancer at UMass Memorial Medical Center. Gwen describes her year abroad as transformative and has visited exchange friends all over the world. Proud mother of 3.



**Kelsey: Alumna to Germany
Gateway Regional '11**

Majored in Health Studies from Monmouth University. Now is a Double Board Certified ER Nurse in the Army where she was assigned to Germany for 3 years. Exchange has inspired Kelsey to continue learning and traveling the world!



**Ivy: Alumna to Denmark
Woodstown High '11**

Studied biomedical engineering at Drexel University and co-oped in the Gambia. Joined the Peace Corps to serve as a volunteer in Peru. Now works in industrial water enforcement with the EPA and supports capacity building internationally. Resides in Denver.



**Brigid: Alumna to Chile
Haddonfield Memorial '11**

Studied in Chile as an exchange student for a year. Went on to major in linguistics and study Swahili, Hindi and Urdu at Columbia University and Oxford. Currently works as an administrator at the University of Pennsylvania.



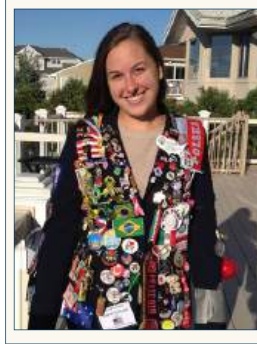
**Austin: Alumnus to Italy
Oakcrest High School '13**

Studied in Sicily and recently returned to visit with his wife for a wedding. Pursued his Master's in Accounting from the University of North Carolina. Reflects on exchange as an inspirational year for learning and exploring what the world has to offer



**Nina: Alumna to Belgium
Ocean City High School '14**

Studied Hotel Administration at Cornell Univeristy. Worked in revenue management economic analysis for the Royal Caribbean. Currently studying at Georgetown. Nina keeps in touch with her host families who she visits often.



**Stephanie: Alumna to Poland
Atlantic City High School '13**

Steph obtained her Bachelor's degree in Hospitality & Tourism and is currently at West Chester University for her Master's in Business Administration. She went on to study in France and India after her exchange year and has visited 17 countries.



**Tabatha: District 7505 Chair
Buena Regional High School '17**

Studied abroad in Brazil and learned to speak Portuguese fluently. Host sister was a bridesmaid in her wedding. Tabatha now speaks Spanish and Italian and has visited over 15 countries. She works as a counselor and coach.



**Kate: Alumna to Chile
Woodstown High School '03**

Kate went on to teach Spanish at Vanderbilt University and now teaches at the University School of Nashville. Kate shares that exchange completely changed her life trajectory and how she approaches life's challenges.



**The Mulford Family
Hosting Adriana from Spain**

Learned about the program through their daughter whose friends participated as outbounds to Bolivia and Argentina.

"This has been the most rewarding experience. Adri inspires us everyday and will forever be part of our family"



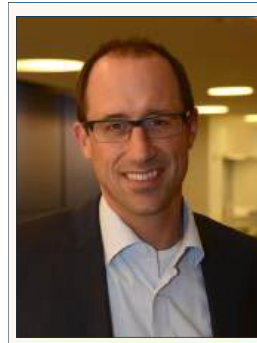
**Mary Kate: Alumna to Spain
Pitman High School '13**

Moved to Madrid after exchange to study International Relations & Politics at St. Louis University Madrid Campus. Mary Kate pursued her Master's in Wine Tourism Innovation and currently lives in Napa Valley working in the wine industry.



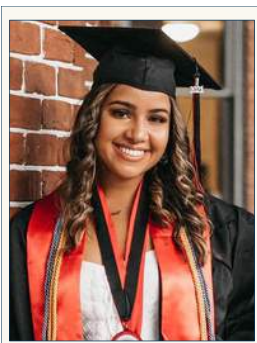
**Giovanni: Alumnus to Brazil
GCIT '10**

Giovanni returned and pursued a career in the restaurant industry. He transitioned into real estate and currently works as an agent in Boston. Giovanni reflects on exchange as a pivotal year in his personal and professional development.



Mark: District 7475 Chair

Grew up with his parents hosting exchange students. He has 6 host siblings and has been a host parent himself twice. Mark studied abroad in Germany where he met his now partner. Their daughter completed an exchange in Argentina. Mark works for a German company and uses his culture skills every day!



**Gracie: Alumna to Brazil
Vineland High '17**

Fluent in Portuguese and Spanish. Received her B.S. in Elementary Education at the University of Tampa. Taught in Florida before returning to her hometown in NJ. Gracie now teaches 6th grade Language Arts and has returned to Brazil twice to visit her host family.



**Donna
Rotary District 7450 Chair**

Sent over 100 students abroad and helped place 125+ inbounds in Philadelphia since 2007. Donna hosted 2 students from Germany and 1 from Brazil. She now has two host granddaughters in Germany. Her sister was an exchange student to Australia.



Donald: Alumnus to Austria Absegami High School, '04
 Earned his Master's in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Donald wrote his thesis about the governor of the province he lived in Austria. Donald worked for the Genocide Watch, currently supervises a hotel in Atlantic City, and is pursuing a career teaching history.



Maggie: Alumna to Belgium Salem High School '17
 Earned her degree in Health Studies from Oxfordshire in England. Currently residing in Buffalo, NY where she is studying to become a nurse.



Holly: Alumna to Brazil Outbound Student
 Double majored in Portuguese and International Studies at Iowa University. Completed a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Brazil and was a Critical Language Scholarship recipient. Now works in international exchange in DC.



Masha: Alumna to Russia Atlantic Cape '16
 Double majored in Russian and National Security at Penn State. Currently a career nanny in Kentucky to a boy whom she teaches Russian. Masha reflects positively on her exchange and routinely keeps in touch with her host families, sometimes daily.



Becca: Alumna to Chile Audubon High School '16
 Becca went on to major in Spanish at the University of Miami and is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of California Davis to create accessible hands on science opportunities for bilingual students.



The Santone Family Hosting Milla from Finland
 The Santone family hosted Milla while their daughter was studying abroad in Argentina. Milla integrated as a member of the family. The Santones gained another daughter for life who has greatly contributed to their family.



Liz: Alumna to Germany Cherokee High School '17
 Studied German and International Studies at Arcadia University where she studied abroad in London, Athens, Benin, and Belize. She has visited her host family, German friends, and exchange students worldwide. Liz is currently an event planner at UPenn.



Crystal: Alumna to Germany Oakcrest High School '11
 Received a bachelor's degree in German from Rutgers University and has been a high school German teacher since 2015. Crystal encourages youth to study abroad and learn foreign languages.



Darleen & Aaron Hosted Yuna from Thailand
 Hosted after recently becoming empty-nesters. The family reflects on the experience as thoroughly rewarding. Yuna became a daughter in their home. The Kramers enjoyed sharing their favorite road trip destinations and taking Yuna to Phillies games.



Marci: Alumna to India & Ecuador Ocean City High School '05
 Grew up with her parents hosting 7 inbounds. After two exchange years, Marci studied International Studies at Arcadia and now works as an artist and photographer. Marci also studied abroad in London and Italy and has road tripped across the USA 8 times with her husband.

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