

LONG-TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAM for travel 2026-27

Length of Stay: One academic year, approx. August - June (attend school in host country). Possible extension if opting for a Rotary-organized end of school tour.

Age Requirement: Student must be between 15^{1/2} - 18^{1/2} years at time of departure (Aug 2026)

Cost: Student Fee \$7,375: Covers airfare, medical insurance and travel visa. (A payment plan can be arranged.) Sponsoring Rotary Club Fee \$400.

Monthly Stipend: Host Rotary clubs provide students with a monthly stipend. The amount varies by host club and country, but it typically is between \$50-\$175 per month. Host clubs also often provide a cell phone.

Two-way Exchange & Host Families: For every outbound student we send abroad, an inbound student from the same country will come to our district. Students live with 2-4 families for approximately 3-4 months per family. Three different families must be identified to host an inbound student for three to four months each. 5160 students accepted to go overseas are asked to help in recruiting host families for inbound students. All host families in the USA and in other countries must complete a Rotary approved vetting process. Rotary membership is NOT required to be a host family.

Language Proficiency: Few students are proficient in the language of the country where they do their exchange. However, language study is required and monitored after the orientation and prior to departure. A successful exchange depends on the student's readiness to communicate in the host language and assimilate.

Responsibilities: All High School students, even those who will have graduated MUST attend high school in their host country and remain in good academic standing. Students MUST abide by all program rules of both the host and sponsor Rotary clubs and districts. Students MUST accept and abide by the supervision of host districts, host clubs and host families. Students and families will need to exercise patience and flexibility throughout the entire process.

The RYE Application has two parts. Part 1 is online, where you provide information about yourself and your family. You will upload five of your best photos. These photos are very important as they will be the first impression of you to your host club and family.

1. Part 1 is due by Oct. 15, or earlier at the club's discretion: fill in the online application:

https://yehub.net/cgi-bin/W16_get.cgi?pgid=apob0

Also — Schedule doctor and dentist appointments – MUST COMPLETE FORMS by NOV. 1.

2. Part 2 is due by Nov. 15: After initial completion of the online application, an email will be sent with the following additional information that you will need to complete by Nov. 15:

Application Process:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a) Application Checklist | e) Student, Parent & Sponsor Club Endorsements |
| b) Medical History & Examination | f) School Personal Reference |
| c) Dental Health & Examination | |
| d) Rules and Conditions of Exchange | |

****All signatures must be in Blue ink**

Scan a copy of the completed forms and email them to outbound@RYE5160.org. Bring the original documents to the District interviews.

Online applications are due by October 15 or earlier at the club's discretion. You must click "submit" on the application in the system, or it will not be forwarded to us for review. If you have questions, email outbound@rye5160.org.

Rotary Interview #1: Sponsor club interview (October, as scheduled by the club)

Your first interview is with a committee from your local Rotary club to determine if they will sponsor you. At least one parent/guardian should attend. A general discussion with the student and parents is held, followed by a private interview with the student. You will be notified soon after the interview by the Rotary club if you will progress to the District5160 interviews in Nov. At the local interview, it is important to have candid conversations with both the student and parent separately to understand the motivations and goals for the exchange year. Some clubs will offer conditional acceptance based on the student's family's ability to help identify host families, attendance at Rotary meetings, etc. It is important to discuss these conditions with the prospective sponsor club prior to the student's district interview.

Rotary Interview #2: District interview (November, just before or after Thanksgiving, 2025)

Students who successfully completed initial screening at the club level are forwarded to the RYE District Committee for interviews.. A specific date and time will be assigned in advance. **This is a MANDATORY Interview. ALL parents/guardians must attend.**

Acceptance Process

Students are notified of their preliminary acceptance status by the RYE Outbound Coordinator or Committee Chair a few days after the District interview. There may be conditions that are placed on the acceptance of the student. One restriction is based on conditions of the local sponsoring Rotary club. When clubs send more than one viable student to the district interview, but will only sponsor one, the district may place a conditional acceptance on finding a sponsoring Rotary club for the student before an acceptance can be offered. If a student does not successfully pass the District interview, the student and parents are notified directly by the Outbound Coordinator or Committee Chair. The club is also notified of the District's decision. Effective screening and communication at the club level is key in this process.

Notification of host country for accepted students will be done in coordination with the students' sponsoring Rotary club. The timing of this varies between February and May based on host country acceptance. The timing of this is

outside of our control, so students and their families must be both flexible and patient.

Mandatory Outbound Orientation Meetings: (#1, 3 and 4 MANDATORY for both students and parents).

#1 – Mid January, 2026: Meet other outbound candidates, families, former RYE students (aka Rotex) and RYE district committee members.

#2 –Mid March, 2026: This is a casual, interactive day for only outbound students (parents are not expected to attend).

#3 – Mid June, 2026: We will discuss travel visas, tickets and provide tips, advice and final instructions for a successful exchange.

#4 – late summer or early fall, 2027: (Rebound Meeting) A very important meeting for students and parents. We work with both students and parents to help cope with reverse culture shock.