

“CODE OF CONDUCT”

The District 7390 Youth Exchange “Code of Conduct” is designed to establish high expectations of socially acceptable behavior of all Inbound Exchange Student participants under the direct care and guardianship of District 7390 Rotarians and Host Families. Participants are responsible to conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully and will abide by the District 7390 policies defined by the Code of Conduct, as well as the Rotary International & ESSEX Rules & Conditions of the Exchange previously signed by each participant and their parents. Violations of these policies will subject the student to disciplinary actions that may include a loss of privileges and/or total dismissal from the program. The Code of Conduct exists to maintain the integrity of the program while ensuring a safe, fair and successful experience for all participants and volunteers.

HOST FAMILY:

- Host Families are responsible for providing you with room & board and also appropriate supervision & parental responsibility. They will look after your physical & social welfare. Respect their wishes, family rules, requests and guidance. Be prepared to accept some lifestyle restrictions and changes.
- Being honest with your host family will create trust as the foundation of your relationship. They need to know at all times where you are going, who you will be with and who will be the responsible person(s) in charge. Follow the Rotary “Rules For Travel” when taking a trip outside the District 7390 boundaries. (7 counties of Central Pennsylvania)
- You are a guest in your host family house, but should act as a member of the family by volunteering to help when needed and by completing the chores that have been assigned to you. (i.e. making your bed, picking up your clothing off the floor, etc.) Show appreciation to your Host Family for the many things they will do and provide for your comfort and welfare.
- Being punctual and on-time for all family activities is an important value for American families. Following your host family curfew (when you must return home) is your responsibility to uphold unless you have asked for special permission from your host parents.
- The majority of your free time should be spent engaging with family members to help you learn & understand different American family cultures. Excessive time spent on the internet with family & friends back home or just your Inbound Student peers is disrespectful & may be viewed as a problem in your ability to adapt as an exchange student. Any use of profanity or sexually explicit photographs on social media (Facebook, etc.) will be grounds for dismissal.
- Other than for religious objections, you are encouraged to try new foods and adapt to the American food diet of your host family. Students should not inconvenience their host family by expecting or requesting special meals for themselves. It is understood that you may not like all foods, but it becomes a sign of respect to sample foods prepared for the family. Students are encouraged from time to time to make a unique meal or food item from their home country as a polite gesture and learning experience for your host family members.

SCHOOL:

- Each Inbound exchange student enters school as an “Ambassador” for their home country and the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Actions and behavior will need to follow your particular school “code of conduct”. In the future this will serve to make other exchange students welcome in this same school. You are in school to both learn and to teach others about your culture.
- All Inbound Students are here on an “academic exchange” and are required to attend high school under the particular school district schedule & rules and Pennsylvania Department of Education laws followed

by all students. Poor attendance may signal your challenge to adapt and will be followed by appropriate discipline or expulsion.

- Students are required to complete all homework assignments and on-time. Students are required to have passing grades in all courses. Most American teachers will consider your language ability in the first couple of months. Incomplete homework assignments or non-passing grades may subject you to disciplinary action. Ask for help from teachers, friends & your host family. Give your study time priority over other social activities. (Need to balance!)
- Inbound students are encouraged to get involved with clubs, sports and extra-curricular activities at school as a way to meet people and make new friends. Before committing to any extra activity students should check with their host family regarding family schedules and transportation and check with Rotary regarding proper insurance coverage (i.e. contact sports).

ROTARY:

- Rotary District 7390 believes that learning the English language becomes essential for all students to have a successful and enjoyable year. All forms of communication (written or spoken) with Rotarians, school and other fellow in-bound students should only be in English. During the first 8 weeks after arriving inbound students are requested to only communicate once per week to their family back home. Inbound students are requested to let family members and friends back home be aware of this restriction as a way of accelerating your learning the English Language through total immersion.
- As an ambassador of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program it is important that you present yourself in the best possible image by dressing appropriately for the various functions and activities of your host family, when in school and at all Rotary functions. Most Rotary functions will be either “business casual clothing” while others will be a little more formal requiring you to wear your Rotary Blazer. When you are in doubt about what to wear ask for a clarification from your host parents or from those in charge of that event.
- Inbound students are responsible for completing an on-line Monthly Report. Each Inbound student will receive an email on the 5th day of each month of their exchange requesting the Inbound to complete his/her monthly report. These reports are required by Rotary International, Eastern States Student Exchange (ESSEX) and Rotary District 7390 and are subject to an audit. These reports provide a way for Rotarians to find out how you are progressing and feeling during your exchange. Failure to submit the online reports could result in a loss of privileges all the way up to termination when multiple reports are not submitted.
- The use of mobile cell phones within the District 7390 is a privilege and not a right of ownership. During certain Rotary functions all cell phones will be temporarily collected and then returned at the end of the event. When phones are not collected they will be required to be powered off. Texting during any event is not permitted and is viewed as being disrespectful.
- Sexual misconduct, sexual assault and sexual harassment are prohibited as detailed in the District's Personal Protection Policy and under the Rotary International rule of “No Dating”. Sexual misconduct is a broad term encompassing any non-consensual behavior of a sexual nature that is committed by force or intimidation, or that is otherwise unwelcome. Any public displays of affection are seen as disrespectful and are not allowed. On any event requiring over-night lodging, female & male students are not allowed to be in the same private room unless accompanied by a Rotarian chaperone.
- The local Rotary hosting club and District 7390 will be formally evaluating your adherence to this Code of Conduct during the year. You are responsible for your conduct, but we are here to help you with difficult situations and to acknowledge your successes. But, a failure on your part to make the effort to adapt can either jeopardize the integrity of the program or possibly threaten your own health and safety requiring an early return home.

AGREEMENT

Student Copy

Student Agreement

I have read, and fully understand the District 7390 "Statement of Values" and "Code of Conduct" and I will adhere to the Code of Conduct and all policies of the Rotary District 7390. I understand that if I do not follow these policies that I could lose privileges and possibly could be sent home.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Country: _____ Rotary District: _____

Date: _____

AGREEMENT

Parent Copy

Parents Agreement

We understand the Rotary District 7390 "Statement of Values" and "Code of Conduct" for Youth Exchange Students residing within District 7390. We understand if our/my son/daughter fails to adhere to those rules & policies he/she could face the consequences of a loss of privileges and possibly be sent home at our expense.

Parent/Guardian Signatures:

Father's Signature: _____

Mother's Signature: _____

Date: _____