

March 28, 2017

Dear Club President:

Every year, Rotary International's Youth Exchange program allows 10,000 young people from 66 countries to see the world the way it is best seen - from the inside out. These exchange students have the opportunity to experience another culture on a firsthand basis and to see the world as few people do. Over the past 30 years approximately 34 clubs in Rotary District 7390 have sent and/or hosted more than 600 high school exchange students who spent a year in a country different than their own.

Rotary Youth Exchange students are student ambassadors for their respective country and Rotary District as they attend high school, live with local host families, and attend Rotary meetings. As anyone who has ever been involved with Youth Exchange or hosted an exchange student will tell you, Youth Exchange is truly one of the most meaningful programs that Rotary sponsors. Per Juan Garcia-Tunon, a Youth Exchange Counselor for the Carlisle Rotary Club has stated : "The Youth Exchange Program touches lives, both ways, forever! One of the best and most rewarding things I've ever done."

This year we are proud to share with all Club Presidents our new model "Youth Exchange Scholarship", valued at \$24,000, for promoting the long term school- based program throughout the district. This model was overwhelmingly embraced by Youth Exchange volunteers at our District Youth Exchange meeting earlier this year.

Highlights of the new model "Youth Exchange Scholarship" for Outbounds (an asterisk designates a change from last' year's promotion of the Outbound Program):

- ◆ One academic year (10-11 months) in another country
- ◆ Covers room, board, tuition, and a monthly stipend
- ◆ Life changing experience: Matures several years.
- ◆ Usually stays with 2-4 host families
- ◆ Colleges will waive start date once accepted.
- ◆ Colleges give credence to the Exchange Students experience = maturity, purpose and focus.
- ◆ \* *Sponsoring club is required to host an Inbound student the same year as the Youth Exchange Scholar is abroad.*
  - Budget for hosting an Inbound typically: \$2,500 - \$3,000 (we have clubs that receive financial support from neighboring clubs to help offset some of the costs of hosting).
- ◆ \* The Youth Exchange Scholar is required to find two or three host families for the inbound student to live with here in the U.S. while the Youth Exchange Scholar is abroad.
- ◆ Rotary Club Counselor is assigned to selected scholarship student and Counselor maintains monthly contact during the exchange.

- ◆ Cost to club for Outbound includes a \$200 district fee for ESSEX plus 2 or more club meals for candidate and parents (one meeting for student to present to club members pre-exchange about themselves and one meeting to make a post exchange 20 minute presentation to club members about their exchange.)
- ◆ \* District Youth Exchange will hold a celebration event in 2018 to provide Club Presidents an opportunity to present the award to their scholar(s).

This new approach does not in any way diminish those clubs who prefer to only host an Inbound, however, your club will be making a dream come true for a student attending your affiliated high school(s) by offering the student a scholarship valued at \$24,000, and it will also make it easier to find host families for an Inbound student with the support of the selected candidate to help source host families. The Outbound parents pay for the round-trip airfare, health insurance, visa, and passport.

An example of a press release for the Youth Exchange Scholarship that can be used by any club to promote the new model "Youth Exchange Scholarship" is:

**The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ Announces Youth Exchange Scholarship**

**The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ is proud to announce that it is offering the prestigious Youth Exchange Scholarship. Valued at over \$24,000, the Youth Exchange Scholarship covers room, board, tuition, and monthly stipend for academic year of international high school studies. Annually, about 4,000 USA students between the ages of 15 and 18.5 years old participate in this program. This is for the 2018-2019 academic year.**

**In addition to the scholarship program, the Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ is also offering a short term, family-to-family summer exchange program for high school students.**

**For more information, please contact (insert Club YEO's name/tel/email). [http://www.rotary7390.org/youth exchange](http://www.rotary7390.org/youth_exchange) or [www.exchangestudent.org](http://www.exchangestudent.org)**

***Posted Date: MM/DD/YYYY***

We welcome high school students who would like to participate in Rotary's 2018-2019 Youth Exchange Program. Applicants must be in the top third of their academic class and be between the ages 15 ½ and 18 ½ as of August 1, 2018. Applicants may be in the sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school.

Yes – a student may still participate in youth exchange the year after their high school graduation as long as they will be no older than 18 ½ as of August 2018. And yes – anyone may apply, including the son or daughter of a Rotarian.

The only way that the high school students in your club's service area will know about the opportunity of Youth Exchange is if you tell them. The best way to spread the work about youth exchange is to contact the guidance office or language teachers at the high school(s) in your service area. Explain to them the purpose of Rotary and our international orientation. Offer to visit the high school to meet with individual students and their parents who express preliminary interest and have questions.

The enclosed information will help you as you approach the local high school(s) and interested students. Students must complete an application and be interviewed and sponsored by your club to be considered by the District for this program. The deadline to submit one completed application for District Interviews (recommended student complete two applications with one application kept by club) is October 16, 2017.

If your club sponsors a student, you will be asked to send a representative from your club to help with the District interviews on Saturday, November 14, 2017. The purpose of the District interviews is to identify those students who are most likely to succeed in the program. Successful applicants will be invited to continue in the District's subsequent training program, an experience that the students often find exciting in and of itself. Even unsuccessful applicants gain valuable interviewing experience and are highly praised by the interviewers.

As a sponsoring club, we only ask that your club get to know your student by providing invitations to Rotary meetings and correspond with your student during the year. We also ask that the student be assigned a counselor, a member of your club, who will join the student and his/her parents at an orientation meeting on a Saturday next spring.

Surely we all know someone – relative, neighbor, friend – who could benefit from this experience of a lifetime. Every high school in the district has at least one student who is just waiting to learn about Rotary's Youth Exchange program

Now is the time to talk to guidance counselors, principals, teachers, and club advisors about Youth Exchange and find that interested student and you can use the above sample press release in blue .

Attached is the Youth Exchange pdf that was included in the Club Presidents booklet given to all club Presidents who attended the District Assembly Training for Club Presidents on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Included in the PDF are resources listed for the program, how to access the information, key contacts for Youth Exchange Program, and descriptions of the Inbound, Youth Exchange Scholarship for Outbound Students, and Short Term exchange programs.

Please make sure that this letter and the attached information get to your club's Youth Exchange Chair, Youth Services Chair, or any other interested members. If you would like assistance in speaking to schools, teachers, or interested students, please contact Melissa Bruck. We have an energetic and knowledgeable District Youth Exchange Committee members with over 100 years of collective Youth Exchange experience who would be happy to assist your club in any way that we can.

We look forward to your club participating in the upcoming exchange year. If you have any questions and need support, please contact any one of us.

Yours in D7390 Rotary Youth Exchange Service,

*Linda R. Spotts*

Linda R. Spotts, Youth Exchange Chair (717) 920-5250 or [crosswinds@pa.net](mailto:crosswinds@pa.net)

Amber Seidel, Youth Exchange Outbound Chair (765) 532-1051 or [ajs@psu.org](mailto:ajs@psu.org)

Walter Tilley, Youth Exchange Inbound Chair (717) 849-4127 or [wat@stockandleader.com](mailto:wat@stockandleader.com)

Attachment: PDF District Club Assembly Training for Club Presidents Booklet Section for Rotary Youth Exchange