

Hosting A Rotary Youth Exchange Student



To begin with, we should dispel a couple of misconceptions:

- You do NOT have to be the child of a Rotarian to go on Rotary Youth Exchange and.....
- ***You do NOT have to be a Rotarian to HOST an "inbound" student from another country***



Hosting...

There is no typical family structure required. An acceptable family might have 1 or 2 parents, might have small children, older children or no children living at home. All that is expected is that a safe, caring, and friendly family and home atmosphere is provided.

Exchange students are typically between the ages of 16 years and 17 years and will attend Georgian Bay Community School – it is, after all, a *student* exchange. Host families voluntarily open their homes to these students for periods of approximately three to four months. This time provides an opportunity for everyone to develop a lifetime of friendships, to learn a different culture and to gain many other rewarding experiences.

For most families, hosting a Rotary exchange student is a life-altering family experience.

What responsibilities will I have as a host family?

Basically, just accept the exchange student as a new member of your family. The student will be governed not only by the rules of the program but by the rules of your household. You are expected to care for the exchange student the same as you would your own children.

Naturally, with an extra child in the house, it will mean more transporting here and there for normal everyday activities, but it is not your responsibility to act as the sole taxi driver or tour guide. T-C Rotarians will be helping in these areas.

There is no financial compensation for hosting, but the student receives a monthly allowance from our Rotary Club.

Otherwise, consider yourself to have another son or daughter. Treat them as you would your own. Entering into hosting with this frame of mind is the most rewarding. Ask any family that has hosted before.

Timing...

Typically, the students arrive at the end of August and leave in mid-July after the big Youth Exchange conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Usually, the student stays with the first family from arrival in late August until the week between Christmas and New Year, then on to the second family for 3 months, and finally on to the last family until departure. Obviously, all of the moving dates are flexible and determined by individual circumstances.

In the event that a host family must be away from home and unable to take the student with them, it is easy for another Rotary family to take him/her in for a brief stay. This is quite common.

For More Information...

Youth Exchange Officer – Colin Clarke -- colinclarke987@gmail.com [226-665-0770](tel:226-665-0770) • Home
[416-473-5931](tel:416-473-5931) • Mobile

Club President 2019-2020 – Bruce Paterson -- bpaterson1000@gmail.com [519-477-2501](tel:519-477-2501) • Mobile
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By email to the club – youth@tcrotary.ca

Resources...

Central States Youth Exchange (our Rotary district is part of this “cooperative”) -- <https://www.csrye.org/>

A great video talking about the Rotary Youth Exchange hosting experience -- <https://youtu.be/pspgla9pyfg>

Former Rotary Youth Exchange host families – we can connect you to dozens of families who have hosted, some of them *many* times!

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*Please feel free to contact us for more information about hosting Rotary Youth Exchange kids, and absolutely feel free to share this idea with others in the community.*

*Hosting an exchange student will change your family's life.....forever.*