

# Rotary Youth Exchange

## -- Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club --



### Information About Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange is for high school aged students who are interested in living and studying abroad for one year. Its goal is to promote the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace at the person to person level.

### What is Rotary Youth Exchange...?

- ✓ Opportunity to learn a new culture and language
- ✓ Opportunity to be an ambassador
- ✓ Opportunity to make friends for a lifetime
- ✓ It's a year of adventure
- ✓ Our returned students call it "***The best year of my life.***"

### Quick Overview...

- It is not a vacation...instead it's a cultural and academic exchange that lasts a full school year (10-11 months)
- While on exchange you will have the opportunity to learn the language and culture of your host country
- While in your host country you will attend school, be hosted by families (normally 3-4) and be supported by your Rotary Club and Rotary counselor (as well as Rotarians here in Thornbury-Clarksburg)

### Where can I go?

*We exchange with over 40 countries, including:*

<b>Australia</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Zaire</b>	<b>Spain</b>	
<b>Japan</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>...plus others</b>

When applying, you indicate which countries interest you the most -- and we attempt to place you in one of them. Unfortunately, due to the nature of our program we can NOT guarantee that you will be placed in a specific country.

### Why Rotary?

Rotary Youth Exchange is one of the largest, oldest and most respected Youth Exchange Programs.

Key reasons to consider Rotary include:

- Orientation/training process before you leave
- Hosted by a Rotary Club and Host Families
- Activities with Rotary/Rotarians
- Low Cost / Everyone is a volunteer

## Do I Qualify?

### Key Qualifications:

- must be a good student (top half of class)
- must be between 16 and 18 1/2 years old at the time of departure

### Other Important Attributes:

- must have a willingness to learn the language and culture of the country that you are assigned to
- must have the initiative to get involved in activities in your host country
- should have pleasant personality
- must be able to adjust to a new and different culture/country
- must be willing to live apart from your family for the year
- must be open to new and different experiences

*A member of your family does NOT need to belong to Rotary for you to be eligible.*

## How much does it cost?

### It varies...

- airfare depends on country (and is higher than you might expect because of specific airline ticket requirements)
- Insurance / orientation / blazer
- possibly language school/extra insurance in your host country
- passport and visa
- pins, presents, photos
- spending money / extra trips in your host country/ souvenirs
- for most students the cost of the year is between \$5,000--\$7,000, although this is very much dependent on your spending habits while on exchange
- This does not include what your parents **save** while you are gone!! (food, car insurance, etc.)

### Rotary provides:

- host families and school
- monthly allowance
- and often **lots** of extras...

## Application and Interview Timeline

**Local interviews with T-C Rotary** -- early October -- *student and parents involved*

**District 6330 interviews** -- early November -- likely in London -- *student and parents expected again*

**Notice of acceptance** -- by end of November

**Assignment to exchange country** -- *usually* by the end of January

**Assignment to specific Rotary Club** -- sometime in the spring -- depends on the country

**Outbound Training Sessions** -- usually 3 -- March, May and July (**mandatory** student attendance)

**Departure for exchange country** -- likely August

## T-C Rotary Contacts

Colin Clarke -- Rotary Youth Exchange Officer -- 226-665-0770 -- [colinclarke987@gmail.com](mailto:colinclarke987@gmail.com)

Bruce Paterson -- Club President -- 519-599-2501 -- [bpaterson1000@gmail.com](mailto:bpaterson1000@gmail.com)

## For More Info...

Central States Youth Exchange -- [www.csrye.org](http://www.csrye.org) (*check out the video "testimonials" posted there!!*)

Rotary International Youth Exchange -- [www.rotary.org/EN/STUDENTSANDYOUTH](http://www.rotary.org/EN/STUDENTSANDYOUTH)

Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club -- [www.tcrotary.ca](http://www.tcrotary.ca)