



Rotary D9500 Youth Exchange Committee

Chairman: Ian Howlett
22 Phoenix Ave Clare SA 5453
Mob +61 448 229 571 Hm +61 8 8422173
email: ian.howlett1@bigpond.com



To students the main advantages are:

- greater maturity,
- formation of lasting friendships,
- knowledge of alternative lifestyles,
- broadening outlook on life,
- appreciation of one's own country especially in relation to other countries,
- being able to mix with all sorts of people,
- growth of self understanding,
- self discipline and self confidence,
- greater tolerance of other points of view,
- self reliance,
- appreciation of one's own family,
- development of self expression,
- of a direction in life,
- learning a new language
- and an interest in international affairs.

Why Rotary Youth Exchange Program is Different

A number of things set the Rotary Youth Exchange Program apart from others, but the most important ones are:



- The network of Rotarians at both home and overseas who are there to support you. Rotarians are all volunteers who do not get paid for their time. They do what they do because they enjoy it and want to make the world a better place. Rotary is non-religious and non-political.
- More than one host family. We see this as a great thing. If you speak to former exchange students, they will tell you that learning to live with new families is part of the learning experience, and generally great fun as well!!
- The cost. Because of the number of volunteers involved in the program, we can keep the cost much lower.
- Support network both in Australia and your Host country.

Outstanding training before you leave. We don't just put you on an aircraft! There are 2 live in weekends and a day of briefing before you leave. So that you are fully prepared for your year on Exchange

An invitation to become a Host Family

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is one of the most recognized and is considered the most excellent of many youth exchange programs.

Each year well over 7000 secondary school students participate in this program worldwide. Students are typically between the ages of 16 and 17 years of age. Rotarians and other people voluntarily open their homes to these students as host families for periods of approximately 3 or 4 months.

This time provides an opportunity to develop a lifetime of friendships, to learn about a different culture and gain many other rewarding experiences.

As a potential host family you have the opportunity to participate in this most rewarding program. The benefits will be many and far reaching for your family if you accept this offer to be a part of this international Rotary program.

When you host a student in your home you give yourself an opportunity to broaden your own horizons and those of your family. Your own children will get to know and understand another culture and make a new friend from the other side of the world. Suddenly, the world will be a smaller and friendlier place. You have given yourself a friend, a person who will remain part of your family for a long time to come.

Rotary Youth Exchange is an opportunity for everyone to learn, to grow and to participate in the promotion of international understanding and friendship. Rotary's support network of Clubs, Counsellors and the District Youth Exchange Committee provide close contact and a team support structure second to none in student exchange programs. Each participating Club is your first contact and subsequent follow up for the many aspects of the program.

What type of families are typical hosts for exchange students?

The answer to this question is all types. Some families have no children of their own, a grown up family with no children at home, or small children. The only proviso for any potential host family is that it provides a stable and friendly household and is approved by the hosting Rotary club.

What will the duration of the hosting period be?

This would normally be between 12 to 14 weeks of a 12 month exchange. During this time the student is obliged to go to school and participate in all school activities. Students are expected to become participating members of the host family and share in all of those responsibilities. At times there will be some commitments to their host Rotary club. Indeed you may also find that you become involved in some of the club's activities.

What makes hosting a Rotary Exchange student a good choice?

Rotary insists that students have a reasonable academic standard, some spoken English as well as an ability to act as an ambassador for Rotary, themselves and their national country. All students have received training which prepares them for their year of exchange. This training is provided in areas of public speaking, understanding cultural differences, getting on with people etc.

What to do now?

Register your interest with your Rotary D9500 Youth Exchange Committee Chair. Your interest will simply be recorded and you will be contacted if an opportunity becomes available. There will be certain mandatory requirements regarding personal checks and a personal interview process to further discuss all aspects of the program before any further commitment is sought.