

Dear Club President,

One of the benefits of being in Rotary is our international reach. Whether we are bringing water to communities in Central America or Africa, providing technology and innovation to provide equality, or vaccinating against Polio, our reach spans mountains, oceans, and borders.

That is why our Rotary District 5050's Youth Exchange program is so important. By bringing today's youth into our international Rotary family, we are teaching the next generation the importance of thinking beyond your own backyard when it comes to sharing resources and planning for the future. The program also promotes peace - one of the cornerstones of Rotary.

You might be amazed at how much your Club can benefit from Youth Exchange. In fact, there are likely potential members in your area for whom an Exchange changed their lives decades ago and who are ready to become champions for the program - and new Rotary members.

We put together this packet to share a little more about the Rotary Youth Exchange program and how easy it is for your Club to get involved.

Thank you!

Felicity

Rotary District 5050 Youth Exchange Committee
Felicity Dye, chair

fdfelicity@gmail.com | 360-815-3199

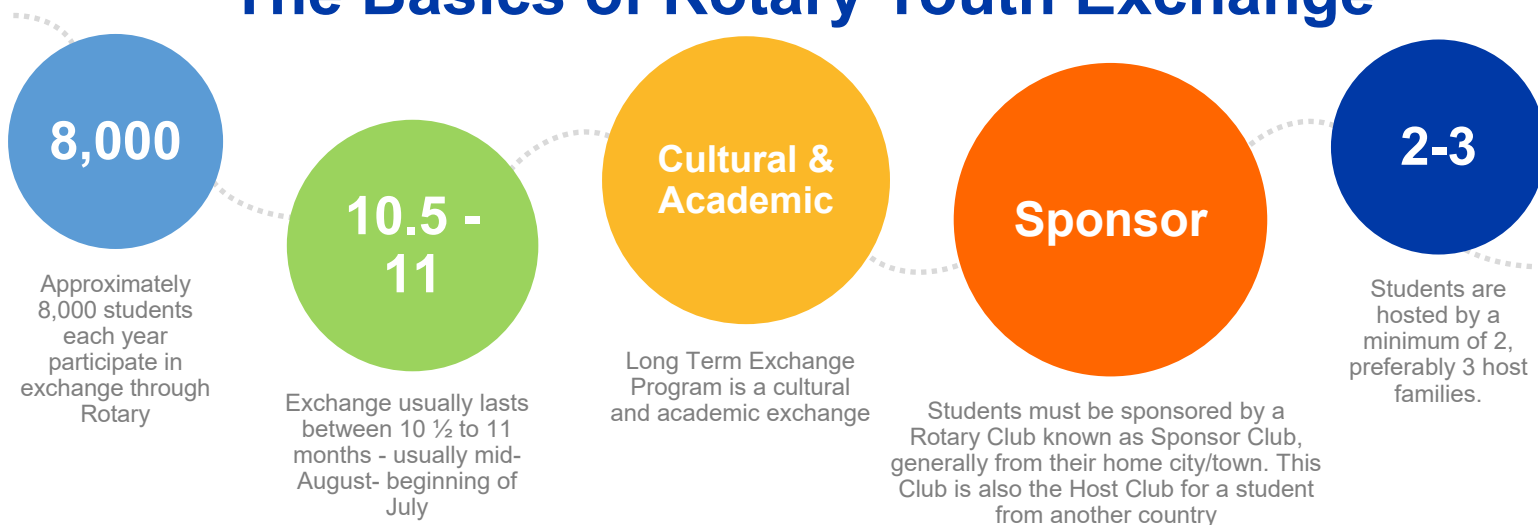


rotary
youth
exchange



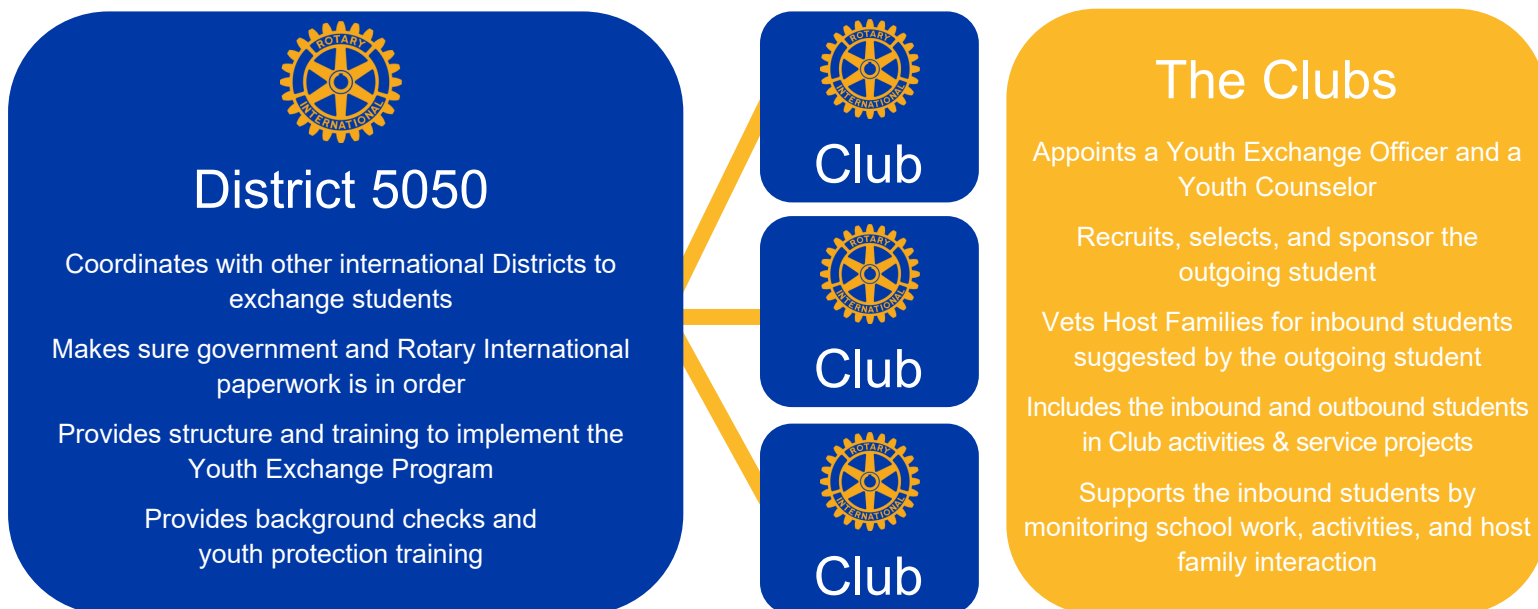
<https://www.youthexchange5050.org/>

The Basics of Rotary Youth Exchange



The Roles of the District and the Clubs

Over the last several years, we have had approximately 15 of the 58 Clubs in District 5050 participate in Youth Exchange. We would love to get that number up because the more Clubs that participate, the more outgoing students that can be sponsored, the more incoming students can be hosted, we would have more camaraderie between Host Clubs, and think about the local...and global...impact!



To get started, all your Club needs is a Youth Exchange Officer and a Counselor - that's it!

<https://www.youthexchange5050.org/>

Exchange Options

Long-Term Exchange

The long-term exchange program is for a full school year, generally from August until June.

The exchange is between Districts

Short-Term Exchange

The short-term exchange program is a 8-12 week program between two host families - one here and one abroad. The students spend half their time in one country, half in the other, over the summer.

Terminology



Outbound Student

A student who is getting ready to leave District 5050 on exchange



Inbound Student

A student coming to District 5050 from another country and being hosted by your Club.



Rebound (Rotex) Student

A student who has returned from Exchange



Youth Exchange Officer (YEO)

Works with both in and outbound students. Completes RYE paperwork



Club Counselor

The ear for both the inbound and outbound student, the advocate, and the one who handles the details of getting the student set.



Youth Protection Officer (YPO)

Ensures youth protection certifications are current and policies are adhered to for all Club youth programs



Youth Exchange Admin Hub (YEAH)

The database tool used to organize student and volunteer information for access by screened YEOs and Counselors.



Youth Exchange Portal App

The app is a more user-friendly version of YEAH for counselors available for phone or tablet.

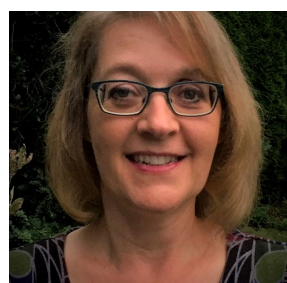
Your Rotary Youth Exchange District 5050 Committee Coordinators



Janice Ellis



Felicity Dye



Andrea Stiller

Short-Term Exchange:

Kendal Harr

drharr@urikapathology.com

Bill Lewis:

Lewis1943@whidbey.com

You can reach us at: rotary5050ye@gmail.com

<https://www.youthexchange5050.org/>

Meet Cole Drinkwater

outbound student to Austria 2019-2020

Although his year was cut short from the Coronavirus, he had an amazing time abroad in Austria. Cole plays a number of instruments including the tuba and had ambitions to go to someplace where he could expand his musical horizons. Our Rotary district was able to place Cole just outside of Vienna. Although he had been studying Spanish, he switched gears to German in preparation of his trip. He was hard-pressed to determine which instruments to take, and in the end, he decided to take his tuba...which was a whole logistical adventure! Here is a message from Cole from December 2019:

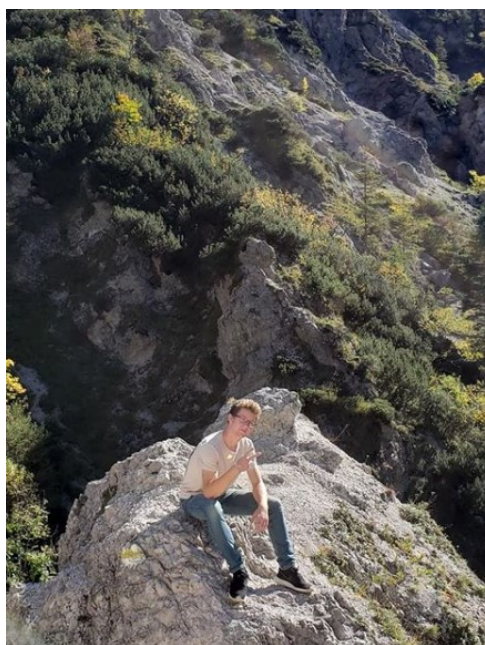


"I'm having a good time here in Austria! My German is pretty good, I can understand most conversations and some of what school teachers say and most of the time I can say what I'm trying to say with few issues.

Christmas was interesting...my host family celebrated by doing an advent walk in the afternoon, and then in the evening we ate fondue, sang songs, and opened presents. Earlier in the month I went to a Christmas get-together with my counselor and his son at their fraternity.

Rotary hosted a goodbye weekend in Salzburg for the students from Australia and New Zealand, which was very surreal and sad for all of us. Although it feels like yesterday that we met all of them, they're really an amazing group of people and we will miss them.

Overall I'm looking forward to the rest of my exchange, if not a little frightened at how quickly it's all going by."



Meet Reece Carpenter

outbound student to Austria 2016-2017

I spent my Junior year of high school in Austria as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and now, as a Junior in college, I can say my life continues to benefit from the amazing experience. They say exchange isn't a year of your life, but a life in a year. And whoever "they" is, is right.

While abroad, I gained a new family, learned German, made lifelong friends from every part of the planet, and got to travel the world. I learned so much about myself, the world, and the people that we share this planet with, which made me a more well-rounded, confident, and independent individual. While this was one of the hardest, most challenging years of my life, it was also the most rewarding and beneficial. It is hard to describe in words how grateful I am for such an amazing experience. I was exposed to a multitude of unique people, cultures, and experiences which allowed me to expand my view of the world and opened my mind to so many different ideas that would not have been possible without Rotary and my year abroad.

I am a better person because of my exchange and I have Rotary to thank for that. **I am currently the president of the Bellingham Rotaract Club** and majoring in German, with hopes of going abroad again to continue my education or begin a career. I am excited to see where my future takes me and feel confident that my experience with my exchange and Rotary will allow for endless possibilities.



Meet Ela Angevine outbound student to Peru 2019-2020

The most impactful, thrilling, and inspiring part of my exchange were all of the surprises, and, trust me, there were quite a few. I don't mean surprises like birthday surprises when everyone jumps out at you. I mean the kind when **opportunities** jump out at you—that exceed your expectations in the best way possible—but that you also need to jump at in order to really make the most of the collective experience.

Going on exchange in a different country, exploring new cultures, languages, and peoples is not easily defined in one word, one phrase, or even a book. There are challenges that transcend your experience, adventures that transcend your comfort zone, and people that transcend your first impression of them.

Even if you don't like surprises, I encourage every one to test their comfort zones in order to grow—this will happen in many unexpected ways. The worst that could happen is that you learn more about yourself and your limits, and the best thing that could happen is that you learn about yourself, others, and how we all fit in this small world together.



Meet Rianna Stiller

outbound student to France 2017-2018

When I was first introduced to Rotary Youth Exchange by an inbound student from Austria I thought that I would never be able to live in a foreign country for a whole year. Leaving everything and everyone I knew was terrifying to think about but looking back it was the best decision I have ever made.

Since returning from my exchange in 2018 my family and I have continued to stay involved with Rotary. **I started a Rotaract Club, my mom joined Rotary**, my family has hosted inbound students, and I have stayed involved with the RYE program by helping at district events. Even though it has been a few years since I have returned I am still benefiting from the connections I made through RYE. I have received scholarships, jobs, references and other great opportunities because of the lasting connections Rotary creates.

I don't know where I would be today if I had never met that inbound from Austria or taken that leap to apply, but I know that I would not be the same person. I would have missed out on so many new experiences, friendships, and opportunities if I never went on exchange which is why I will forever be grateful to everyone who makes this program possible.



Meet Miwa Clare

outbound student to Japan 2019-2020

My year abroad in Japan as an exchange student helped me develop as a person. I left for Japan the Summer of 2019 and came back the following summer. Living amongst 4 very different host families during my year abroad, I attended an all-girls Christian high school. Due to the differences compared to my high school here in Canada, it took some adjusting to do but I quickly got used to their rules and expectations.

I was really lucky and my school provided me with a variety of opportunities to immerse myself into Japanese culture. Traditional Japanese dancing, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and calligraphy to name a few. I took these classes every week. Via our school's connections with a local daycare, I also got to help the daycare's staff watch over children.

Despite the many positive memories I made with my new families, not everything went as planned...I started to appreciate everything that was taken for granted. Getting rides to a friend's house, a warm family dinner, the "good morning's" and "good nights" I was told every day. Even now that I am back in Canada, I remember these moments and think of all the tasks and favors my family does for me, and how lucky I am.

I personally was never good at public speaking, but as I joined Rotary, it provided me with opportunities to speak in public. As a result, I have become more prepared and confident to talk in front of others. This also helped me with learning my new language. Halfway through my exchange, Covid-19 started to spread and all of my friends had to leave, and events were cancelled. I watched all of my friends go home one by one but I was able to stay for the rest of my school year. Despite the pandemic, this once in a lifetime opportunity provided by Rotary has largely impacted who I am now, and how I will grow as a person.



A Year-At-A-Glance in Rotary Youth Exchange

1 YEAR 1 - Preparation Year

JUNE-JULY Clubs determine participation in program	SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER Clubs select outbound candidate by October 31st Selected Candidate to submits application to District by November 15th. District vets, interviews, and finalizes outbound student selection	DECEMBER-FEBRUARY Student works on learning outbound destination language, make school plan District coordinates exchange with Districts internationally	MARCH-JULY Student works on Visa Club learns identity of inbound student Club coordinates inbound student host families
OUTBOUND STUDENT ORIENTATION WEEKENDS Mid-February Mid-June			

2 YEAR 2 - Active Exchange Year

JULY-SEPT Outgoing students depart & incoming students arrive Students enrolled in school, sports, extracurricular activities	SEPTEMBER-JUNE Inbound students attend school, are engaged in extracurricular activities, attend Club meetings periodically, and participate in Club service projects and events. Outbound students will check in monthly. Clubs and host families should consider a plan for enriching the student's experience. Consider locations and experiences that will be memorable, but also know that some of the best experiences may be in the time spent together making connections and having conversations that will be remembered for a lifetime!	MARCH-JUNE Optional Rotary student trips (student financed)	JULY Inbound student depart by July 10th. Outbound students arrive back home.
INBOUND STUDENT DISTRICT EVENTS			
SEPTEMBER Inbound Student Orientation Weekend	NOVEMBER Veterans Day and service weekend	DECEMBER Chilliwack Christmas Parade	JANUARY Ski weekend at Mt Baker
May Farewell Event			

3 YEAR 3 - Return Year

Once the outbound student returns, he or she is a Rotex - an exchange student who has returned. The student should make a presentation of their exchange experience for your Club, participate in service projects and events, and be included. They should also be encouraged to join a local Rotaract or Interact group depending on their age. From a District standpoint, we will be putting the students to work - helping with outbound student orientations, documenting their stories, and they are our spokespeople for the Rotary Exchange program.

Note: there are additional details that will be handled by Sponsor Club, the District, the Outgoing Student, the Incoming Student, Host Families, School District, and more. This is just meant to be an overview.

<https://www.youthexchange5050.org/>

Expenses and Fees - Long Term Exchange

District Fees

LONG-TERM EXCHANGE

Club Fee- US	\$ 900.00
--------------	-----------

Club Fee-CA	\$ 1,130.00
-------------	-------------

The District has reworked the program to greatly reduce fees to the Clubs, encouraging more Clubs to participate!



Other Expenses

CLUB MONTHLY EXPENSES - INBOUND STUDENTS

Stipend	\$ 100
---------	--------

Y.A.I.L.	Optional
----------	----------

District Conference	Optional
---------------------	----------

Meeting Expenses (for students attending your Club meetings)	Depends on meeting requirement
---	--------------------------------

Required school expenses are paid by the Club. Depending on the host family situation, you may also consider a bus pass or assist with school expenses such as extracurricular activities although student may also use stipend for these. Rotary flags and pins optional.

Except for the expenses listed here, the student pays all other expenses. Expected student expenses are listed on the following page - approximately \$7,000-\$8,000



Expenses and Fees - Short Term

2022-2023 District Fees

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE

Club Fee- US	\$ 125.00
--------------	-----------

Club Fee-CA	\$ 160.00
-------------	-----------

There are no other mandatory Club fees associated with the Short-Term Exchange.

Rotary flags and pins optional.

Outbound Student - cost overview

Your sponsored students should plan for the following expenses during their outbound experience

LONG-TERM EXCHANGE OUTBOUND STUDENT BUDGET

Airfare	\$ 1,750 - 2,000
Insurance Mandatory insurance policies, all in this range	\$ 800 - 1,100
Visa Varies by country, may need to travel to consulate for an interview	\$ 600-1,000
District Fee - US	\$ 1,200
District Fee - CA	\$ 1,500
Blazer/Pants or Skirt	\$ 100
Gifts for Host Families	\$ 250-300
Clothes Purchases while in-country	\$ 500-600
Spending Money Students will receive a monthly stipend from host Club	\$ 600+
Mid-Year/Year-End Trips Not mandatory, but great experiences!	\$ 1,500 - 2,500
Approximate Total Budget	\$ 7,000 - 8,000

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE OUTBOUND STUDENT FEES

Airfare	\$ 1,000 - 2,000
Insurance - Mandatory	\$ 300
District Fee - US	\$ 325
District Fee - CA	\$ 410
Spending Money	\$ varies



As the sponsoring Club, make sure your outbound student is set up for success. Consider assisting with fundraising if needed to help the student get the most out of their time abroad.

