



# ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE FLORIDA, INC.

*Sharing the World with the Sunshine State*

WWW.RYEFLOIDA.ORG

## Program Rules and Conditions of Exchange

*As a Youth Exchange student sponsored by a Rotary club or district, you must agree to the following rules and conditions of exchange. Violation of any of these rules may result in dismissal from the program and immediate return home, at student's expense. Please note the additional rules on the reverse side specific to RYE-Florida.*

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### Rules and Conditions of Exchange

- 1) You must obey the laws of the host country. If found guilty of violating any law, you can expect no assistance from your sponsors or native country. You must return home at your own expense as soon as released by authorities.
  - 2) You will be under the host district's authority while you are an exchange student and must abide by the rules and conditions of exchange provided by the host district. Parents or legal guardians must not authorize any extra activities directly to you. Any relatives you may have in the host country will have no authority over you while you are in the program.
  - 3) You are not allowed to possess or use illegal drugs. Legal medications that are prescribed to you by a physician are allowed.
  - 4) The illegal drinking of alcoholic beverages is expressly forbidden. Students who are of legal age should refrain. If your host family offers you an alcoholic drink, it is permissible to accept it under their supervision in the home. Excessive consumption and drunkenness is forbidden.
  - 5) You may not operate a motorized vehicle, including but not limited to cars, trucks, motorcycles, aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, and other watercraft, or participate in driver education programs.
  - 6) Smoking is discouraged. If you state in your application that you do not smoke, you will be held to that position throughout your exchange. Your acceptance and host family placement is based on your signed statement. Under no circumstances are you to smoke in your host family's bedrooms.
  - 7) Body piercing or obtaining a tattoo while on your exchange, without the express written permission of your natural parents, host parents, host club, and host district, is prohibited, for health reasons.
  - 8) You must make every effort to learn the language of the host country, and may be responsible for any costs for tutoring, language camps, or other instruction.
  - 9) Limit your use of the Internet and mobile phones, as directed by your host district, host club, and host family. Excessive or inappropriate use is not acceptable. Accessing or downloading pornographic material is expressly forbidden.
  - 10) You must attend school regularly and make an honest attempt to succeed.
  - 11) You must have health and accident or travel insurance that provides coverage for accidental injury and illness, death benefits (including repatriation of remains), disability/dismemberment benefits, emergency medical evacuation, emergency visitation expenses, 24-hour emergency assistance services, and legal services, in amounts satisfactory to the host Rotary club or district in consultation with the sponsor Rotary club or district, with coverage from the time of your departure from your home country until your return.
  - 12) You must also have liability coverage through a travel insurance or other applicable policy, in amounts satisfactory to the host Rotary club or district in consultation with the sponsor Rotary club or district.
  - 13) You must have sufficient financial support to assure your well-being during your exchange. Your host district may require a contingency fund for emergency situations. Unused funds will be returned to you or to your parents or legal guardians at the end of your exchange.
  - 14) You must follow the travel rules of your host district. Travel is permitted with host parents or for Rotary club or district functions authorized by the host Rotary club or district with proper adult chaperones. The host district and club, host family, and your parents or legal guardians must approve any other travel in writing, thus exempting Rotary of responsibility and liability.
  - 15) You must return home directly by a route mutually agreeable to your host district and your parents or legal guardians.
  - 16) Any costs related to an early return home or any other unusual costs (language tutoring, tours, etc.) are the responsibility of you and your parents or legal guardians.
  - 17) Visits by your parents or legal guardians, siblings, or friends while you are on exchange may only take place with the host club's and district's consent and within their guidelines. Typically, visits may be arranged only in the last quarter of the exchange or during school breaks and are not allowed during major holidays.
  - 18) Serious romantic activity is to be avoided. Sexual activity is forbidden.
  - 19) Talk with your host club counselor, host parents, or other trusted adult if you encounter any form of abuse or harassment.
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### Recommendations for a Successful Exchange

- 1) You should communicate with your first host family prior to leaving your home country. The family's information will be provided to you by your host club or district prior to your departure.
- 2) Respect your host's wishes. Become an integral part of the host family, assuming duties and responsibilities normal for a student of your age or for children in the family.
- 3) Learn ahead of time as much of the language of your host country as possible, and use the language regularly. Teachers, host parents, Rotary club members, and others you meet in the community will appreciate the effort. It will go a long way in your gaining acceptance in the community and with those who will become lifelong friends.
- 4) Attend Rotary-sponsored events and host family events, and show an interest in these activities. Volunteer to be involved; do not wait to be asked. Lack of interest on your part is detrimental to your exchange and can have a negative impact on future exchanges.
- 5) Get involved in your school and community activities. Plan your recreation and spare-time activities around your school and community friends. Don't spend all your time with other exchange students. If there is a local Interact club, you are encouraged to join it.
- 6) Choose friends in the community carefully. Ask for and heed the advice of host families, counselors, and school personnel in choosing friends.
- 7) Do not borrow money. Pay any bills promptly. Ask permission to use the family phone or computer, keep track of all calls and time on the Internet, and reimburse your host family each month for the costs you incur.
- 8) If you are offered an opportunity to go on a trip or attend an event, make sure you understand any costs you must pay and your responsibilities before you go.

## Additional Program Rules and Conditions for Inbound Students to RYE-Florida:

- 1) Students must arrive with a complete round-trip airline ticket, including both domestic and international segments, and the ticket must have an "OPEN" return.
- 2) Students must bring and maintain an Emergency Fund of \$300 US, to be deposited upon arrival with the host Rotary district. This fund is ONLY to be used in emergencies and then must be replenished immediately by the student or his/her natural parents.
- 3) All inbound students must purchase the Rotary-approved accident and sickness insurance policy, known as "Annual Plan B", from American International Group, Inc., through CISI-Bolduc. Insurance must be paid for prior to the student's arrival, by credit card or by bank check (in US Dollars, drawn on a bank in the USA). Guarantee forms and DS-2019 visa documents will not be issued until the insurance premium is paid.
- 4) Students must certify that they have no dietary or physical restrictions other than those shown on the application. If something occurred after submission of the application and the student needs special attention, the RYE-Florida Chairperson must receive a complete report no later than 2 weeks before departure. If the applicant suffers from mental or medical condition(s), the RYE-Florida Chairperson reserves the right to cancel or terminate the exchange.
- 5) To help in the adaptation of the students, we ask that phone calls home be limited to once per month after the initial phone call on arrival. E-mail to family and friends is permitted once per week.
- 6) Students must attend school regularly and make good effort in classes. Students will attend high school, at the school designated by the host Rotary Club. Under no circumstances will the student be allowed to take driver education or operate a motor vehicle. There is no guarantee whatsoever that an exchange student will be able to earn a US high school diploma.
- 7) Students are prohibited from independent travel. Travel with host family, school groups, or Rotarians is permitted, but the Host District YE Chairperson must be notified in advance of all trips outside the District. Inbound students must arrive directly from their home country, and must return directly to their home country at the end of the exchange year.
- 8) Visits by parents and family members are permitted only during the last quarter of the exchange year. Visits by home country friends are strongly discouraged, and will be allowed only in very special circumstances. Students are not permitted to return home during the exchange year, except in cases of emergency.

### Declaration:

IN CONSIDERATION of the acceptance and participation of the applicant in such program, the undersigned APPLICANT and his or her PARENTS or Legal GUARDIANS, to the full extent permitted by law, hereby release and agree to save, hold harm-less and indemnify, all host parents and members of their families, and all members, officers, directors, committee members and employees of the host and sponsoring Rotary Clubs and Districts, and of Rotary International, from any or all liability for any loss, property damage, personal injury or death, including any such liability which may arise out of the negligence of any such persons or entities, which may be suffered or claimed by such applicant, parent or guardian during, or as a result of, the participation by the applicant in such Youth Exchange program, including travel to and from the host country.

WE GIVE PERMISSION for any and all medical care as identified in the "Permission for Medical Care and Release of Medical Records and Liability" which we have signed and which may be deemed necessary or advisable for the treatment of any illness or injury suffered by applicant.

Having read and understood the "Program Rules and Conditions of Exchange" on both sides of this page, we each agree to abide by these rules and conditions and understand that any violation may result in abrupt termination of the exchange, and we further agree that the host Rotary club, host Rotary district, and RYE-Florida shall have final authority in enforcing these rules and conditions and any other rules and conditions which may be imposed with due notice.

**(Signature on all copies must be original and written in blue ink)**

Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Year)

Signed \* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant)

Signed \* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Father/Guardian)

Signed \* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mother/Guardian)

In the presence of Sponsor Rotary Club Representative \* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)