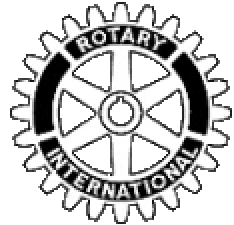




Rotary International District 6970

Youth Exchange Program

www.ryeflorida.org



Things to Know ...

for Prospective Short-Term Outbound Applicants and Parents

Application Instructions

Read and follow the instructions carefully and completely. Remember, this application form is not only your introduction to Rotary, it is also your first impression for potential host families overseas.

Your complete application package is due in to Short-Term Program Coordinator Rob Overly, absolutely no later than January 31, at the following address:

Mr. Rob Overly
Design Works Architects P.A.
500 Wharfside Way
Jacksonville, FL 32210

The application packet must contain:

- Three copies of complete application, all with original signatures in blue.
- A list of your top three preferred destination countries (no more, no less). Note that the following countries are not available for Summer 2004: England, Ireland, Australia, Canada
- Non-refundable application fee of \$25, payable to "Rotary District 6970 Youth Exchange".

Program Costs

The Program Fee for 2004-05 is \$200. This fee covers medical insurance, supplies, business cards, orientation expenses, and the costs involved in setting up the exchange. It does not include airfare, passport or visa costs, or spending money on either side of the exchange.

After your application has been reviewed and accepted, we will begin the process of seeking a "match" with a foreign student. Once that match is arranged, you will be notified that the Program Fee is due. Prompt payment will be appreciated.

Arranging Dates and Other Details

In the Short-Term program, it is usually left to the families involved to establish the dates of travel and other specific plans. Rotary will, of course, assist when necessary. Keep in mind that flexibility is important, and that school years will vary in other countries.

It is recommended that you establish contact as soon as you are notified of the identity of your "match", to start making arrangements. The length of the exchange is normally 3-4 weeks in each country. It doesn't matter whether your son/daughter travels first or hosts first.

It is also the responsibility of the student and family to make airline reservations, and to obtain any travel visas or other documents if required. For the Long-Term program, we utilize the services of a travel agency that specializes in Rotary Youth Exchange travel. If you would like to work with them, please ask us for the contact information.

Hosting the Exchange Student

Either before or after your daughter/son travels, your family will host the foreign student in your home. The best experiences, for all concerned, are when you treat this student as a member of the family, not a guest. But this is indeed a chance to "play tourist" in our home area, and schedule whatever special activities and trips that appeal to you. Obvious suggestions would include Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando, the Kennedy Space Center, and your favorite beach or summertime hangout. Feel free to talk to other families involved in the program about combined excursions – that can be especially fun for students and families alike.

Websites

We enthusiastically refer you to the following websites, which you may find of interest:

- **www.ryeflorida.org** - This is our own district youth exchange website, source of the most relevant and specific information, student journals, calendars, etc.
- **www.rotary.org** - The website of our international organization, with over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 165 different countries.
- **www.rotary.org/programs/youth_ex/index.html** - The section of the Rotary International website dedicated to the Youth Exchange program
- **www.rotary6970.org** - The website of our district, comprised of 12 counties in northeast Florida

Questions

We are always happy to answer questions from parents and students – especially from students (because we like to see them "managing" their own exchanges). Feel free to contact Chairman Al Kalter or the members of our District 6970 Youth Exchange Committee whenever you feel the need for additional information.

Al Kalter

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