



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE FLORIDA, INC.

Sharing the World with the Sunshine State

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Assignments for 2011-12 Outbound Students

1. **Research Project** – See the handout for details.
2. **Language Learning** (two assignments, in addition to using your various tools every day)
 - a. Prepare an introduction of yourself, in your target language. Refer to the handout from the language seminar for details. It doesn't have to be any longer than a minute or two, but does need to be more than one or two sentences. You will be presenting these introductions **at the next orientation**. Practice makes perfect.
 - b. Rewrite your application letter in your target language. This is going to be much harder, so get help from wherever you like (inbound students, Rotex, language teachers, etc.). If you don't have a copy of your original application, your Country Coordinator can provide one. You can either translate your letter, or, if you prefer, write something new. The translated letters will be sent to your host district and ultimately to your first host family. You definitely want to make a good first impression. When you are finished, send your work to Chairman AI, either by e-mail or hard copy. The deadline for this project is **May 15**.
3. **Study** the materials we've provided to you. Specifically, read and re-read the CultureGram about your country. And read and understand *The Exchange Student Survival Kit* – it will be discussed at the next orientation.
4. **Start Preparing Your Speech** – When you are overseas, you will be given the opportunity to present a program to your host Rotary Club, and perhaps to other clubs and organizations as well. When you do that, you represent your family, our community, our country, and Rotary. You may also be invited by your *sponsor* Rotary Club, here in the US, to make a similar presentation before you leave (in English, of course). For either or both of these opportunities, you need a well-planned speech and some good pictures. Start building an outline of your speech. And also start collecting pictures that you can show with this presentation (a photo album with prints is OK, but hard to share; Power Point presentations are probably best). What should the photos be of? Your family, your home, your town, your school, your friends, activities you like to participate in, places you like to visit, and landmarks or famous sites in our area (yes, you can include Disney World, Cape Canaveral, etc.). There is no deadline for this, but it should be started before your district get-together in the spring and done by our final orientation in June.
5. **Make and Maintain Your Contacts** – Get in touch with, and follow up with, the people on the Contact List who are connected with your destination. Learn what you can about your country from each of them, and work with your Rotex friends as well. When you find out your specific destination, and the names of your host district Youth Exchange Chairperson, host club Youth Exchange Officer, and host families, be sure to write to them promptly. A note to the District Chair, thanking him or her for the opportunity, and saying how much you're looking forward to a year in their country, goes a long way toward establishing your reputation. Especially if it is written in their language! Use your contacts to make that happen. Also, when you hear from overseas, please let your Country Coordinator and District Counselor know.
6. **Pictures for Website and Business Cards** – Our website will be updated very soon with photos and bios of our new outbound class. If you don't like the picture we have of you there (it came from your application), send in one you do like. It must be a head-and-shoulders shot, digital, e-mailed to Chairman AI. Please don't crop it so there is no space around your head! If we don't get one from you by **March 10**, we'll use what we have and you'll have to live with it for a year.
7. **Reply Promptly to Mail, E-mails, and Messages** – Remember, we are counting on you (not your parents) to manage your exchange. If you get an e-mail from the Youth Exchange Chair, your Country Coordinator, or a Rotary counselor, here or overseas, reply to it right away. When you are sent paperwork and instructions from Bokoff-Kaplan Travel Services, be sure to do what you are asked to do, completely and promptly. Take charge, be efficient, make it happen, and the result will be a wonderful, unforgettable, life-changing year.