

Rotary Youth Exchange Host Family Info

Rotary Youth Exchange host families who reside in the State College School District are needed for the 2020 calendar year. Ideally families host a student from mid August through December or January through mid June, although shorter periods will be considered. Youth exchange students will be 16 to 18 years old and have basic English skills. Families do not need to be affiliated with Rotary. Youth Exchange host families do not receive any remuneration.

Exchange students receive a monthly stipend to cover basic expenses and our club covers school lunches. Rotary also provides a counselor for youth exchange students.

Host family responsibilities

Rotary Youth Exchange host families provide room and board for the exchange student. Families are also expected to exercise general parental supervision over the student just as you would your own children, and involve him or her in daily household chores and activities.

Most host families' involvement with their student does not stop at room and board. The families often share their native background while also learning about their visitors' culture. This does not mean that you have to arrange elaborate entertainment, but simply make the student a part of your family. Give him or her the opportunity to share in the same aspects of your family life that most teenage students experience in your culture.

Other suggested host family responsibilities include:

- * meeting your exchange student on arrival in your country and making the student feel at home as part of the family;
- * helping the student master the language;
- * involving the student in obligations similar to those established for your own family members;
- * helping the student meet Rotary obligations, which may include attending Rotary functions, including club and/or district meetings;
- * assisting with local transportation as you would for a son or daughter without a drivers license
- * seeing that the student meets other young people;
- * providing a safe environment for the student and ensuring the student's safety;
- * being tolerant of differences and willing to change your own ideas.

Background checks must be performed on host families as well as any other individuals age 18 or older residing in the same dwelling. A home inspection is also required before placement of a student.

Additional information is available at <http://www.exchangestudent.org/>

Questions or interest may be sent to scrotarydt@gmail.com or Ken Martin at 814-380-4008.

