

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Submitted by: Lion Grant Hendrickson

Date: 8/7/26

List highlights of what is new with your area of cabinet service since our meeting on march 30, 2026.

Here is the report from Lions Youth Exchange: We had 30 youth from 19 countries and four continents, come for Camp Spicer and stay with families in the Multiple District 5M. It was another very successful summer camp for our youth, as they learned about what Lions do all around the great state of Minnesota. They were able to tour many of the renowned programs in our district. They visited Can Do Canines, Minnesota Vision and Hearing Foundations. All of the youth are sponsored by their Lions Clubs and are great ambassadors from the countries they represent. We had four youth hosted in our district and I have heard mostly positive feedback from the host families and youth who were placed. I'm hoping we can continue to have at least five or six host families in our district next year. I want to thank all of the host families and clubs who sponsored our youth. I hope some of the clubs in the district invited their youth or their host families to come and speak at one of their meetings, to describe what a rewarding program this is for both parties.

We did not send any Leos or other youth abroad this year. We had one Champlin Park Leo who was interested but decided against its last spring. We again want to start the host family process as early as possible this next year and hope to have all our youth placed by the end of April of 2027.

This year we struggled to find host families until the middle of June. We start getting applications after the New Year. Please contact me at the contact information below, so that I can give you more information, or give your clubs a presentation to help spread the word about this fun and rewarding Lions initiative. There are less than a dozen International Lions Youth Exchange Camps in United States. I would like to continue to see this wonderful and important collaboration continues within our multiple districts. We will continue to be a leader throughout the world for sharing the good work and technology we have in this district with their youth.

I want to give a big thank you to Eden Prairie Lions Club and Let's Go Fishing group, for hosting a lunch and a pontoon ride on lake Riley for the Camp Spicer YE group. Thank you for your continued support for the success of this International Youth Exchange Program.

We're a 501c3. If your Lions Club has charitable Gambling Funds we encourage you to donate.

Make checks payable to:

5M-5 Lions Youth Exchange and

Lion Ross Thorfinnson, District Treasurer, will coordinate the district funds from the charitable accounts to 5M Lions Youth Exchange Foundation.

Youth Exchange Chair

(Lion Grant Hendrickson, 612-508-9461, grant@southsideservices.org)

List what your area of cabinet service is planning this lion year.

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