

Newberg Rotary Youth Exchange Programs

Long Term Exchange Program (LTEP)

The Rotary Club of Newberg Early Birds is looking for qualified high school sophomores who are interested in being a Goodwill Ambassador to another country. Selected applicants have the opportunity to participate in an educational and cultural long term youth exchange program. This program involves students traveling to host countries for approximately 11 months. Students live with host families during their stay, and attend a local high school. Interested sophomores are invited to apply, and if selected, would spend their junior year in the hosting country.

If you are looking for an opportunity for travel, study, and adventure in a foreign country, this program may be right for you. Exchanges are possible in the following countries:

Asia: India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Czechia/Slovakia, Denmark, Finland/Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey

Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico

Major expenses include airfare to and from the host country, health insurance, an emergency fund of \$500, any required foreign language classes, and incidental expenses. Host families provide your food and lodging. Many host Rotary clubs provide a small monthly stipend. If accepted, a \$500 deposit is required; if all requirements are met satisfactorily and you go on exchange, this deposit will be returned to be used as your emergency fund. (If you are selected, but fail to meet requirements, we keep the deposit to help cover some of our costs.)

Students selected for long term exchange are required to find a host family for an inbound exchange student for part of the time you are on exchange (mid-August through mid-June) - either your own family or with another suitable family in the Newberg-Dundee area.

Short Term Exchange Program (STEP)

Rotary also offers a short-term youth exchange program this is a direct family-to-family exchange in which the family in the selected country will host you (the American student) and vice versa within the same calendar year. Any country with which Rotary can arrange an exchange (and is eligible to participate in this program) is possible. To be eligible, you must be 15-19 years of age at the time of the exchange. The exchange can be from 4-10 weeks, depending on what is desired and possible with the host families. Students must pay \$450 (non-refundable) to attend the required outbound student orientation in January. Upon departure, the Rotary club will reimburse your \$450 to take on your exchange with you.

To apply for the Newberg Rotary Youth Exchange Programs, please complete the attached application and return it, along with all required documents (see below) in an envelope to Michelle Bechtold at Edward Jones (2510 Portland Rd, Unit C, Newberg – behind Sherwin-Williams). The Rotary Youth Exchange Committee members will review all applications, set interviews with selected students and their parents, and make final selections within a week of the interviews.

A complete application includes:

1. The application form (attached)
2. Two recommendations from non-relatives (attached)
3. A high school transcript

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Rotary Club of Newberg Early Birds Youth Exchange Co-Chairs Michelle Bechtold at mdbechtold@frontier.com or (503) 476-5200 or Elizabeth Still at stillak@gmail.com or (971) 241-7656.