

Rotary Peace Path

Rotary and the Peace Connection

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of Rotary's mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect. Rotary's involvement in world peace initiatives has been a mainstay since the organization's inception in 1905.

Rotary has many peace initiatives throughout the world. One of its youth peace programs is Rotary Youth Exchange.



Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace

What is Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange has a mandate to promote global peace and understanding. One Camrose outbound student spends a year in another country with Rotary host families. In exchange, an inbound international student comes to Camrose. The students are supported by both the host Rotary club and the sponsoring club, as well as counsellors and district representatives.

Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students ages 15-19 are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.

Exchange students unlock their true potential to develop lifelong leadership skills, learn a new language and culture, build lasting friendships with young people from around the world and become global citizens.

One young person at a time The Rotary Youth Exchange program reaches so many more people than the actual exchange student. As each student learns and embraces life beyond "home" they have a profound effect on everyone around them.

Why Create and What is a Peace Path?

Our past Rotary Exchange students have been wonderful ambassadors for their countries. They exemplify the Rotary principles of truth, fairness, goodwill, friendship and caring and the peace that comes from living those principles. We wanted to celebrate and dedicate a tree to each of them. In the process we have created our Rotary Peace Path that is both "peaceful" and celebrates this youth "peace" program.

Since its beginning in 2017, we have created a path and planted a tree for each of our fifty one (as of 2024) exchange students. We built a kiosk with signage to recognize our exchange students, and held a dedication ceremony. In 2024, we added two arbors to frame the peace path and 10 Peace Poles with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the languages of their exchanges.

Photos of our Peace path official opening with four former exchange students in front of the signage and on the right, inspecting their newly planted trees.





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