

Recruiting host families for
the 2025/26 scholastic year.

Host Parent Recruiting Toolkit

Be a Host. Change a Life.
(And Your Life, too!)

rotary
youth
exchange



Recruiting host families is a **vital** part of your Rotary Youth Exchange application. You might be surprised by how many families are interested in hosting an exchange student but simply haven't had the opportunity to do so until asked. Many families are **thrilled** to be invited to take part!

To meet Rotary's requirements, you'll need to recruit **2-3 host families** who live in the same general area, ideally within the boundaries of the same high school. Think of people who know you well and would be interested in helping you reach your goal—neighbors, teachers, coaches, extended family members, and even your parents' friends or coworkers. **Don't forget to reach out to your local Rotary Club**; they can provide valuable support and may even know families who've hosted before or are interested in hosting now.

The best way to recruit host families is to let them see **your motivation and excitement** for your exchange.

- Share your plans on **social media** and post updates about your preparations. For example, if you're learning a new language or trying new foods in preparation for your year abroad, let your followers know!
- Make a **flyer** about yourself, sharing why you want to go on exchange, and post it at your school, sports club, or place of worship. Carry a few copies with you to hand out if you meet someone who might be interested in hosting. Each little effort brings you one step closer to making your exchange dream a reality!



A year in a life. A life in a year.

Email me and scan the qr code for more info.
RotaryYouthExchange5280@gmail.com

Rotary International District 5280 youth exchange students:

Our exchange students come from these countries. All students must have an acceptable level of English to participate in our program.

Australia	France	Peru
Austria	Germany	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Brazil	Italy	Slovakia
Chile	Japan	South Korea
Croatia	Mexico	Spain
Czechia	New Zealand	Sweden
Denmark	Norway	Switzerland
	Paraguay	Taiwan
		Thailand



Be the change

- Make a positive impact
- Experience a different culture
- Make friends around the globe
- Be part of a world family

You in?



“Hi, my name is...”

Standing up in front of a group, introducing yourself, and asking for support isn't always easy—but with practice, it gets easier! Developing this skill is not only empowering, but it's also essential for a successful exchange year, where you'll need confidence and self-reliance. Taking the initiative now helps you grow in independence, which is intrinsic to making the most of your exchange experience.

While the adults in your life are here to guide you, the motivation and effort must come from YOU. With a positive attitude and clear communication of your goals, you'll be surprised at just how many people will want to support you on this journey!

Here is an example of what to say when introducing yourself and asking for support in finding host families. This message shows genuine enthusiasm, shares a bit about the your personal goals, and invites families to be part of something special:

“Hi! My name is [Your Name], and I'm a sophomore at [School Name]. It's been a dream of mine for years to live and study in another country, and right now I'm a candidate for the Rotary Youth Exchange program. As part of my application, I'm helping recruit potential host families for students arriving here from all over the world—places like Germany, Brazil, Japan, and many others!

These exchange students come to experience life in the U.S., share their cultures, and build lifelong friendships. To make this possible, I'm asking for your help to find families willing to host for 3-5 months. Hosting is a rewarding experience, with built-in support and guidance available throughout the program. You'd give an exchange student the chance to be part of a real American family, and in turn, you'd gain a connection to their culture, plus the amazing chance to expand your world right here at home.

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out—I'd be happy to tell you more and introduce you to the world of Rotary Youth Exchange!”



**You'll never know,
until you ask!**

People in your life who might want to be Host Parents:

- Neighbors
- Aunts and uncles
- Grandparents
- Members of your church/temple
- Teachers
- Coaches
- Scouting parents
- Team parents
- Mom's bookclub friends
- Dad's golf buddies
- Mom's tennis pals
- Dad's pickleball group
- Mom's knitting circle
- Dad's fantasy football
- Parents' work colleagues
- Your doctor
- Your dentist
- Your physical therapist
- Your hairdresser/barber
- Rotary Club members
- Other community service organization members

Hand this **Host Hero** flyer to interested host parents. Add your contact information at the bottom, so they remember you.

Make a world of difference.

Hosting an international student with Rotary Youth Exchange is a unique opportunity to bring the world into your home, to share your culture and traditions while gaining invaluable global insights. Hosting is so much more than a temporary arrangement; it's about creating lasting connections, expanding perspectives, and filling your family's lives with new experiences and unforgettable memories. Imagine exploring local customs together, sharing daily meals, and gaining fresh viewpoints—all while helping a young person thrive in a new country. By opening your home, you're not only giving a student the chance to grow but also making a powerful difference in your own life and the world at large.

Rotary Youth Exchange stands out from other programs because it offers a deeper experience by placing students with two to three different families over their exchange year. These multiple placements allow for a richer cultural immersion, as students build a network of families who support them. Should a host family face an unexpected change, like travel or illness, this network helps ensure continuity and support for both the student and the families.

Rotary Welcomes All Types of Families as Host Families:

- Families with children at home
- Divorced parents with shared custody
- Single parents
- Single individuals without children
- Same-sex couples
- Retirees and "empty nesters"
- Families of any ethnic, cultural, or religious background

Be a Host Hero!

As part of the Rotary Youth Exchange, each student accepted into the program needs three host families to support another inbound student, creating a true 1:1 exchange. Your commitment as a host family helps ensure that your own child, as an outbound student, will be welcomed abroad by other families. To facilitate the hosting process, Rotary provides all prospective families with a full orientation, including a criminal background check, home inspection, and training. The initial commitment is for three to five months, during which your family will receive the full support of Rotary counselors trained to address any needs, large or small.

Rotary Youth Exchange takes youth protection and support very seriously. Each exchange student is backed by a team fluent in multiple languages and skilled in international student support. In addition, a rapid response team of therapists, law enforcement, youth protection experts, and State Department specialists is always ready to assist in any unexpected event.

By opening your home, you offer not just a place to stay but an experience of belonging and growth—one that has a lasting impact on your family, your student, and the world.

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

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