**Long Term Exchanges**

**Rotary Youth Exchange**

**District 5420**

Key Contact Information

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1. Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is a service-oriented youth exchange program for youth, ages 15-18½. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Any Utah youth may apply who have at least one year of high school remaining and are in good standing with grades. Utah RYE is a one-for-one program. One Utah youth goes out and a foreign youth comes into Utah for the Academic school year (August – July). The youth need to have good mental and physical health. If there are any questions or concerns, these must be addressed before Interviews in January.
2. Long Term Exchanges typically begin in August/September and end in June/July.
3. RYE candidates DO NOT pick their countries. Countries cannot be guaranteed until the application is accepted by the country. Students need to request three languages they are interested in. The student’s top three choices are considered but not guaranteed. Candidates MUST be flexible and willing to go wherever they are placed. Some countries have language, age, other requirements. Some countries do NOT accept vegetarians.
4. THIS IS A STUDY ABROAD, NOT A TRAVEL EXPERIENCE. Students may not have the chance to travel while studying abroad.
5. Students will live with 2 - 4 host families, for 3-4 months each, while on their exchange. All homes have all members cleared through the background check process. Host families may be of the same or different religion than the youth’s. Youth may not have the opportunity to attend the church of their faith while on exchange.
6. While on their exchange, students are required to attend school in the language of the host country. Students are also required to follow the 4D’s: (1) No Drinking (2) No Drugs (3) No Driving (4) No Serious Dating/Sexual Relationships. Breaking these rules will result in being sent home early. If a student is sent home, no refunds will be given. If there is any extra charges on return tickets on early returns, the student is responsible for those charges.
7. Families are asked to have limited contact with their student while they study abroad to help the student learn the new language quicker and help with the homesickness process. Families are ask to limit their interaction with their youth to one hour per week.
8. The cost of a long term exchange is $5,500. A $500 NON-REFUNDABLE payment is due with the application .This pays for travel, visa, all paperwork handling, blazer, polo shirt, business cards, and monthly spending allowance. The $5,500 payment does not include the cost of a passport, additional immunizations, additional spending money, gifts, pins for exchanging and personal items. If a language camp is required, this cost is NOT covered in the $5,500 payment. Also, if travel is required to a consulate in the USA, it is NOT covered in the $5,500.
9. The Rotary Long Term Application will be forwarded to you if requested. Fill out all the information you know. Applications must be turned in to be considered for RYE Interviews. If applications are not completed, the candidate will not be able to interview. Make two copies. All signatures must be in BLUE ink. Make sure all emails are correct and each application has the required photos.
10. Applications are due by December 1st of the year before you want to do a long term exchange. Interviews will be conducted in the beginning of January. If the youth does not attend the interview, the youth will not be considered for a Rotary Youth Exchange. A parent must accompany the student to the interviews (All parents and step-parents are encouraged to attend). This is an all day interview and the student and parent must attend all day.
11. Youth who would like to study abroad must have a doctor and dentist visit completed before their application will be reviewed. Immunizations must be current and additional immunizations may be required at the student’s expense. If the youth does not have immunizations or if the immunizations are not current, the youth cannot participate in Rotary Youth Exchange.
12. Hosting an exchange student can be incredibly rewarding for your family, bringing an international experience directly into your home. Host families provide room and board and share their lives with exchange students, involving them in family, community, and cultural activities. All host families are screened and trained. Families of the youth going abroad to study are NOT required to host a foreign student. However, each student must find three families to host the student who takes their place when the student leaves to study abroad. One of these families is usually the student’s family. Host families are asked to host about 3 ½ months to 4 months each. Families need to prepare room and board for the student and be able to pass background checks. The host families do not receive a stipend or monthly payment for care.
13. School credits for the year abroad must be cleared through the student’s school before leaving. Each school district is different and the student may have to delay graduation. Plan with your school counselor now!