

# **Long Term Exchanges**

## **Rotary Youth Exchange District 5420**

### Key Contact Information

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1. Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is a foreign 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. Students request countries they are interested in. The student's top choices are considered but not guaranteed. Countries cannot be guaranteed until the application is accepted by the country. Candidates MUST be flexible and willing to go wherever they are placed. Some countries have language, age, and 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 a few months each, while on their exchange. All homes have all members cleared through a formal background check process.
6. 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.
7. While on their exchange, students are required to attend school in the language of the host country.
8. Students are 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.

9. 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 asked to limit their interaction with their youth to one hour per week.
10. The cost of a long term exchange is \$5,500. 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.
11. The Long Term Application is available on the Utah Rotary website [utahrotary.org](http://utahrotary.org) under Youth Exchange/Outbound Students.
12. Applications are due by December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.
13. 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.
14. 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 3-4 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.
15. 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!