

Short Term Exchanges

District 5420

Key Contact Information

Aaron Lowe
Outbound Coordinator
(801) 592-0913
alowe@byu.net

Kahrin Holmes
Youth Exchange Officer
(435) 640-5370
Kahrin@rjsinc.com

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. The youth needs to have good mental and physical health. If there are any questions or concerns, these must be addressed before Interviews in January.
2. Short Term Exchanges typically take place during the summer break (June-August).
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. Students will typically live with 1 host family while on their exchange. All homes have all members cleared through a formal background check process.
5. 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. 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 are 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 asked to limit their interaction with their youth to one hour per week.
8. The cost of a short term exchange is the cost of a passport, plane tickets, visas, travel insurance, additional immunizations, spending money, gifts, pins for exchanging and personal items. All these costs are the responsibility of the student and their family.

9. The Short Term Application is available on the Utah Rotary website utahrotary.org under Youth Exchange/Outbound Students.
10. Applications are due by December 15th of the year before you want to do a short 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. 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 student going abroad are usually required to host because short term exchanges are “Family to Family” exchanges. The student will spend 3-4 weeks with a host family and then a youth in the hosting country returns with the student and spends 3-4 weeks with them at your home.
12. Many foreign countries require COVID immunization, so it is likely that the student will need to be vaccinated to participate, although this is not a requirement of Rotary itself and Rotary cannot guarantee the host family will be fully vaccinated.