

Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary Clubs of Sault Ste Marie



Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges students are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries. A Rotary Youth Exchange student will be an ambassador of their country and city, sponsoring Rotary Club and school. They will share their culture, language and country with fellow students, host families, Rotarians, newfound friends and sometimes children, organizations and statesmen in the community and country that hosts them.

BENEFITS

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
- Become a global citizen

COMMITMENT

Long-term exchanges last a full academic year, and students attend local schools and live with multiple host families.

COSTS

The Study Abroad Scholarship includes the following:

- Hosting by foreign Rotary Club
- Primary tuition and placement in school approved by foreign Rotary Club
- Homestay accommodation including meals with your host family
- Monthly stipend from hosting Rotary Club
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure (i.e. met at the airport or final destination by a program representative)
- 24-hour worldwide emergency assistance throughout the program
- Secondary travel and medical insurance, accident, ill health, repatriation, and third-party liability
- Some in-country orientations

Program does not include: (Parents/Students are responsible for the following costs.)

- Program fee, including conferences and administration - \$1,500USD
- Primary insurance for travel and medical, accident, ill health, repatriation, and additional coverage against third party liability – approx. \$1,050USD (based on 2023/2024 fee)
- Airfare/transportation, passport and visa application fees, and other travel costs – ranges from \$2,500USD - \$4,000USD plus taxes and fees
- Other miscellaneous costs: some in-country orientation or language programs, optional tours and trips, spending money, recreation (varies by student)

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APPLICATION

Applicants planning to depart in August 2024 MUST:

- be born on or after FEB 1, 2006 (Maximum Age: 18y 6m)
- AND be born on or before FEB 1, 2009 (Minimum Age: 15y 6m)
- Have a minimum 2.75 GPA (approx. 80% average) over their last two years of school

Interested students can apply online at <https://rotarysault.com/youth-exchange/>.

Applications for the 2024/2025 school year are due by 4:59pm on Thursday, September 28, 2023.

Successful applicants will be invited to be interviewed. The interview process will require the applicant to be interviewed by an interview team individually, then with their parents. Finally, the parents are interviewed without the applicant. Interviews take twenty to thirty minutes in total. Each applicant will be interviewed twice. The purpose of the interview is to assess the applicant for qualities in adaptability, linguistic ability, general awareness and scholastic attainment among others.

The Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie will select which of the applicants will attend interviews at the Rotary District level. These interviews will be very similar to the local interviews. Our Rotary Club has a very good track record of acceptance of our applicants at the District level but this is not guaranteed.

Students that are accepted into the program will attend four more District sponsored weekend conferences to prepare them for their year abroad. Our "Outbound" students will depart for their assigned country in either July or August of 2024 for approximately an eleven-month duration.

As they move through the program, applicants will develop a detailed application, which includes a "country preference" form where they must rate the +/- 40 destinations in order of preference. From this list Rotary will assign the student to a country for their exchange. Effort is made to accommodate the student's top choices, but potential exchange students should be aware that Rotary cannot fulfill everyone's first choice. As part of being adaptable a student should be prepared to be sent to any one of their first ten choices.

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TIMELINE

September 28, 2023 Applications due to local Rotary Club

September 30, 2023 Local interviews with local Rotary Club

Early October, 2023 Acceptance notice from local Club

October, 2023 Begin Application Process – *As they can be hard to secure, please make appointments for medical, dental, and legal documentation for a date following the District Interview conference*

REQUIRED: October 20-22, 2023

Fall Interview Conference at Camp Daggett (Petoskey, MI) – Parents attend on Sunday
Transportation to conference arranged by local Rotarians

Late November, 2023 District Chair sends confirmation of acceptance

January, 2024 – Learn which country will host you!

REQUIRED: February 9-11, 2024

“Great North” Winter Conference (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)

REQUIRED: April 19-21, 2024

Spring Orientation Conference (Traverse City, MI)
Transportation to and from conference arranged by local Rotarians

April-July, 2024 Visa applications, vaccinations (if necessary), flight arrangements, language training, contact with host club

REQUIRED: July 10-14, 2024

Summer Conference at Calvin University (Grand Rapids, MI)

August, 2024 Depart to your host country

August, 2024 - July, 2025 Exchange Year

June 20, 2025 Earliest date to return

2nd Weekend July, 2025 Calvin University Summer Conference – with parents

Rebound Year 2025/2026 An opportunity to share and to give back