Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and 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, and newfound friends.

**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

**COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS**Students accepted into the Rotary Youth Exchange program will answer questions about their goals for exchange, and Rotary will match students with their destination country based on their goals and “best fit.” During the assignment process, students will be allowed to refuse countries.

**COMMITMENT**
Exchange lasts a full academic year. Students attend local schools and live with host families.

**COSTS**
Flat fee is $8,000USD or $11,000CAD. Payment and refund schedule is included in this section.

Included in flat fee:

* Attendance at District Training and Orientation Programs:
	+ Interview Conference - October 2024
	+ Winter Conference, Including Bus Fee - February 2025
	+ Spring Conference - April 2025
	+ Calvin Conference #1 & #2 - July 2025 and July 2026
	+ Two credits toward parent attendance at either Calvin Conferences
* Airfare Pool\*
* Rotary Required Health & Liability Insurance\*
* Travel Agency Fees
* Foreign Visa support
* Parent orientation sessions (webinar & in-person)
* Rotary business cards, district pins, patch
* Language Camp (if required)
* Sweatshirt and t-shirt

*\*If there is an excess in funds beyond 5% of the pooled airfare and insurance fund, once all costs are finalized, a pro-rata refund will be made to each student in October of 2025.*

We also arrange with the host club for the students to receive:

* In-country high school registration
* Room and board with 1-3 pre-approved host families in host country
* Monthly Rotary stipend from hosting club of $75-100 (local currency)
* Local support, counselor and supervision in-country
* Life-long opportunities to engage with other Exchange Students
* Life-long benefits of being a member of the Rotary International family

Not included in fee:

* Youth exchange blazer
* Passport
* Travel to embassy/consulate to obtain visa (if required)
* Paperwork fees to obtain visa or application (notary, etc.)
* Vaccinations, immunizations & medications
* Predeparture medical & dental exams (required)
* Local travel
* Camera, clothing, personal items
* Luggage fees (in excess of basic covered by airline ticket)
* Currency exchange fees
* Bank fees
* Tours & travel in host country
* Emergency fund (determined by host country, usually $300-$500USD; unused funds will be refunded to you at the conclusion of the exchange)
* Spending money while abroad (on average, students use $100-$200/month, depending on the student's spending habits)

Refund schedule:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DUE DATE** | **USD$** | **CAD$** | **Possibility of Refund** | **Refund Amount** |
| October 15 | $500 | $700 | Non-refundable | Non-refundable |
| December 15 | $2,500 | $3,450 | On or before 2/1/2025 | Amount paid less $625 |
| February 15 | $2,500 | $3,450 | On or before 3/15/25 | Amount paid less $1,500 |
| May 15 | $2,500 | $3,400 | Before departure | Amount paid less $3,000 if noplane ticket has been issued |
|  |  |  | *7/25/25 or after* | *No refunds* |

NOTE: The Flat Fee may need to change if there is a significant increase in airfare or insurance.

**APPLICATION**
Applicants planning to depart in August 2025 MUST:

* be born on or after FEB 1, 2007 (Maximum Age: 18y 6m)
* AND be born on or before FEB 1, 2010 (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 [www.rotarysault.com/exchange](http://www.rotarysault.com/exchange).

Applications for the 2025/2026 school year are due by 4:59pm on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

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 2025 for approximately an eleven-month duration.

**TIMELINE**

* **September 26, 2024** Applications due to local Rotary Club
* **September 28, 2024** Local interviews with local Rotary Club
* **Early** **October, 2024** Acceptance notice from local Club
* **October, 2024** 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 18-20, 2024**
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: January 30-February 2, 2025**
“Great North” Winter Conference (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
* **REQUIRED: April 25-27, 2025**
Spring Orientation Conference (Traverse City, MI)
*\*Transportation to and from conference arranged by local Rotarians\**
* **April-****July, 2025** Visa applications, vaccinations (if necessary), flight arrangements, language training, contact with host club
* **REQUIRED: July 9-13, 2025**
Summer Conference at Calvin University (Grand Rapids, MI)
* **August, 2025 Depart** to your host country
* **August, 2025 -** **July, 2026** Exchange Year
* **June 20, 2026** Earliest date to return
* **2nd Weekend** **July, 2026** Calvin University Summer Conference – with parents
* **Rebound Year 2026/2027** An opportunity to share and to give back