

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 become global citizens. Exchange 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 \$8,250USD. Payments are made in October, December, February and May.

Included in flat fee:

- Attendance at 5 District Training and Orientation Programs
- 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 2027.*

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)

Neil McLean, Sault North Rotary - neilmclean@gmail.com - 705-256-9297

Melinda Mills, Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie - mitchelburns@hotmail.com - 705-542-6120

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- 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)

APPLICATION

Applicants planning to depart in August 2027 MUST:

- be born on or after FEB 1, 2009 (Maximum Age: 18y 6m)
- AND be born on or before FEB 1, 2012 (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.

Applications for the 2027/2028 school year are due by 4:59pm on Tuesday, September 23, 2026.

Successful applicants will be invited to be interviewed. The interview process will require the applicant and their parents to be interviewed by two interview teams. Each interview takes twenty to thirty minutes.

The Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie will select from these candidates which will be invited to attend interviews at the Rotary District level. Our Rotary Club has a very good track record of acceptance of our applicants at the District level but this is not guaranteed. Students accepted into the program will attend additional District sponsored weekend conferences to prepare them for their year abroad. "Outbound" depart for their country in July or August of 2027 for approximately 11 months.

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TIMELINE

- **September 29, 2026** Applications due to local Rotary Club
- **October 3, 2026** Local interviews with local Rotary Club
- **Early October, 2026** Acceptance notice from local Club
- **October, 2026** 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 16-18, 2026**
Fall Interview Conference at Camp Daggett (Petoskey, MI) – Parents attend on Sunday
Transportation to conference arranged by local Rotarians
- **November, 2026** District Chair sends confirmation of acceptance
- **January, 2027** – Learn which country will host you!
- **REQUIRED: February 4-7, 2027**
“Great North” Winter Conference (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- **REQUIRED: April 23-25, 2027**
Spring Orientation Conference (Traverse City, MI)
Transportation to and from conference arranged by local Rotarians
- **April-July, 2026** Visa applications, vaccinations (if necessary), flight arrangements, language training, contact with host club
- **REQUIRED: July 8-11, 2027**
Summer Conference at Calvin University (Grand Rapids, MI)
Parents strongly encouraged to attend.
- **August, 2027 Depart** to your host country
- **August, 2027 - July, 2028** Exchange Year
- **2nd Weekend July, 2028** Calvin University Summer Conference – with parents
- **Rebound Year 2028/2029** An opportunity to share and to give back