



DISTRICT 9800 YOUTH EXCHANGE
HELP SHEET FOR CLUBS, 2005 - 2006

OBJECT OF THE PROGRAM - VERY BRIEFLY

To further international goodwill and understanding through the interaction of different cultures.

To have our students act as ambassadors for Australia.

To have our students be able to impart this experience to the people of Australia on their return.

To have the pleasure as a Rotary family to have a young person of a different culture interacting with your own family - lifetime friendships flow from these associations.

COUNTRIES

It varies, but we anticipate the following countries will exchange with us in 2006:

Japan	France	Germany	Norway
Thailand	Brazil	Belgium	Sweden
Switzerland	Finland	Poland	Denmark
Hungary	Philippines		

THE APPLICANT

AGE

Students should have turned 15 years before departure.

They must NOT have had their 17th birthday prior to departure in January 2006 and not have completed year 12 studies

SUITABILITY

Applicants must have a pleasant and outgoing personality. They should have maturity, a positive focus and strength of character. The ability to interact and communicate, to participate in community activities and to be adaptable. A solid academic record is preferable.

ELIGIBILITY

Sons and daughters of Rotarians are eligible but receive no special preference in selection. **All applicants are selected solely on merit.**

THE SPONSORING ROTARY CLUB

SELECTION

Each Club is to select ONE or TWO students who, in the view of the Club, would make suitable exchange students. Please feel free to involve past students that your Club may have sponsored - they are an invaluable pool of experience about what it is all about!

The applications from these students (3 copies on forms to be provided) are to be received by the District YE Chairman no later than the **end of May**.

COUNSELLOR

The Club shall, after careful consideration, select **a suitable and conscientious** counsellor for the proposed exchange student. This is a pivotal role and the guidelines for outbound counsellors are included.

HOSTING

Each Rotary Club that sponsors a student to go overseas on exchange must **unconditionally guarantee** to host a student from an overseas Rotary Club. This is an Australian Government requirement, not a Rotary rule, and applies to all exchange organisations.
CLUB WILL PROVIDE rotary approved host families, ideally four families (not necessarily Rotarians)

COSTS:

monthly allowance (approx. \$120)
attendance at club meetings and functions
orientation weekends and district conference
travel card school fees (if any), uniform, books etc.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE - generally administers the following:

INTERVIEW

The District Committee will interview all candidates and their parents and make recommendations to the Rotary Clubs as to which are most suitable for sponsorship.

To ensure that the Club is involved in this process, please have a member of the Club interview panel present at the District interview to advise the District Committee and at the same time, give support to the candidates.

PREPARATION

The District Committee will inform and prepare the selected students for their exchange by means of weekend seminars, home visits and a final orientation day. Committee members are more than happy to answer any questions from students, parents, Clubs and counsellors at any time through the year.

HOST CLUB

The District Committee will be responsible for arranging a suitable overseas host Club. Please note that while every effort is made to have regard to student preferences, the committee reserves the right to make the final decision on country allocation.

THE OVERSEAS HOST CLUB

1. Will provide 12 months free secondary schooling for the student.
2. Will provide 12 months free full board in Rotary or Rotary approved homes.
3. Will pay the student pocket money and accept responsibility for essential travelling expenses, such as to school, to District Conferences.

THE PARENTS

1. Agree to pay the price of the "Youth Exchange Package" which this year was \$5300 for the full 12 month program. However, please note that there is **no cost** to the parents until acceptance of the student after the District interviews when a deposit of about \$1100 is required. The balance may be paid in two further payments between June and November.
2. Agree to pay the cost of overseas national insurance (c/f Australian Medicare) if and when that is required by the host country. Otherwise, Rotary International has full medical, property and general insurance on each student for the year as part of '**the Package**' and additional insurance is not necessary.
3. Will supply the student with all clothing for the year away.
4. Agree to provide the student with a contingency fund of \$500 for unforeseen circumstances. This fund is jointly administered by the counsellor and the student and is often untouched for the whole exchange and so can either be returned home, or with parental blessing, enjoyed in some other fashion.

'The Package' includes:

- Return ticket/airfare and visa
- Twelve months' accommodation
- School Fees
- Monthly allowance (approx. \$AUS120)
- Travel and health insurance
- Orientation weekends, home visits, briefing days and counselling
- Blazer, name badges and business cards

THE SELECTED STUDENT

1. Will agree unconditionally to accept the RULES of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, the DECISIONS of the host Club and the LAWS of the host country.
2. Will agree to accept as one of the family, the authority of the host parents.
3. Will agree to attend a secondary school for the 12 months.
4. Will be willing to address Rotary Clubs and other groups which the host Club may suggest.
5. Agree to return home directly on the completion of the exchange year. No consideration will be given to any request for an early or late return home from the exchange except in the case of serious illness or family bereavement.

RECOMMENDED DATES FOR THE SELECTION PROCESS

February - May	Advertise for students at schools, shops, Scouts, Guides, Youth centres, etc.
March – Mid May	Club interviews and selection of two candidates per Club for District interview.
End of May at latest	All student applications for District interviews must have been forwarded to: D(800 Youth Exchange Committee PO Box 115 Darling South Victoria 3145 Australia
	<u>Three copies with photos required.</u> Late entries may not be accepted.
Early June	District interviews.
Early July	Final Selection Weekend.
September - December	Home visits and Orientation Day.

Please do not hesitate to call any member of the District Committee should you have queries or require additional information. Good luck to all.

District 9800 Youth Exchange Committee.

**Geoff Asher
Chairman D9800 YEC**

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Comment: