

Rotary
District 5495



**Rotary
Youth
Exchange**

SHORT TERM SUMMER EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

District 5495 STEP Coordinator:

Jennette Bill

YouthExchange@SedonaRotary.org

928-301-1363

What is a Rotary Short Term Exchange Scholarship?

This Rotary sponsored and organized program sends America's best student ambassadors age 15 to 19 on a summertime reciprocal exchange adventure in a foreign country...that is, you would live with a family in a foreign country for 4 to 8 weeks and then their student would come to live with your family for the same length of time, usually during summer break from school. Both families take the opportunity to show their foreign exchange son or daughter some of what their country and culture have to offer.

What countries can I go to?

Most countries in the exchange program are in Europe, Central America, and Mexico. We club prefer that you go to a country that speaks a language that you are currently studying, whether that is in school or through a self-study program. However, other countries also work fine as do English speaking countries. The Rotary Matching Coordinator makes every attempt to match you with a student of like interests.

What are my costs for the program?

- Round trip airfare
- Your own spending money, gift for host parents and family members, small hostess thank you gifts for others
- Processing fee for Rotary: \$250 due at the time of initial interview
- Health and accident insurance that meet Rotary requirements (can be obtained through Rotary at an approximate cost of \$50 to \$70)
- Travel documents such as a passport (no visa needed)
- Activities and travel in the US to show your host sibling your world

What is the process for becoming a Short Term Exchange Student?

- Fill out a Preliminary Application Form that would be emailed to you and submit it to Jennette Bill at YouthExchange@SedonaRotary.org. **Application deadline: February 28**
- Student and parents will be interviewed in the home by a Rotary local coordinator. The coordinator will share more program information and rules and qualify the student and home for the reciprocal exchange. A check for \$250 made out to "District 5495 Rotary Youth Exchange" with "Rotary STEP" on the memo line, will be due at the time of the interview.
- If qualified, the parents fill out the Host Home Application at www.Rotary5495Youth.com, which will initiate a background check as required by the US State Department.

- If qualified, the student fills out the on-line full application that will be e-mailed to you. Print 1 copy, attach pictures, and sign in blue ink. Make 1 more copy for your records.
- Send the original Short Term Exchange Application to:

Jennette Bill, Rotary STEP Matching Coordinator
 20 Coburn Court
 Sedona, AZ 86351

- Questions for Jennette Bill: 928-301-1363
- Matching process can take 2 to 8 weeks
- When a match is found, both students and their families have to agree to the match before any contact is made. If both parties agree upon a match, you will begin contact with your foreign exchange family to form a relationship and to work out dates and details for the exchange.
- In April or May there will be a mandatory 3-hour orientation meeting for the student and at least 1 parent.
- You will attend a Rotary meeting before going abroad, receiving your sponsoring club banner that you will present to the foreign host Rotary Club.
- If at all possible, you will attend a Rotary meeting or Rotary sponsored event with your foreign exchange sister or brother when they are visiting your family and preferably do a program via power point with pictures.

How can I earn Priority Placement Points?

- Apply early
- Become an active member of Interact Club
- Attend Rotary Youth Leadership (RYLA) (application deadline: 10/31; apply at www.RYLA5495.org)
- Be willing to host a long term Rotary Exchange Student for 3 ½ months
- Foreign language skills to highest level possible
- Excellent grades, involvement in extracurricular activities and community service

What is my responsibility if I am chosen?

Act as an ambassador and representative for your country, state, city and Rotary. Embrace new experiences and cultural differences. Make new friends! Abide by all Rotary program rules. Be willing to share your experience and pictures in a 10-minute presentation with Rotarians. Be willing to promote the program with other students.

How can I feel safe about going abroad?

Rotarians abroad will be checking host families as thoroughly as we will check yours. Rotary has an incredible world wide web of people who are prepared to help you and your parents at any time should there be an emergency.

ABOUT ROTARY: Rotary is an international non-profit service club made up of volunteers who are passionate about “Service Above Self” and about promoting peace around the world through friendship and understanding.

