

District 5630 Rotary International Youth Exchange Scholarship

Valued at \$13,000 - \$51,000

Application and Preparation for the 2024-2025 Exchange

1. Complete the APPLICATION

- a) Use this link to provide your personal e-mail address and complete the Preliminary Application process using e-mail and on-line submission: <https://yehub.net/S63-obpre>.
- b) You will receive an e-mail with further instructions for completing the Preliminary Application process.
- c) The process will include a CONFIDENTIAL SCHOOL REFERENCE to be completed on-line by your school counselor, teacher or administrator – (with consent of your reference, you will provide his/her e-mail address so we may provide a link to the on-line reference form.)
- d) This process will also require a personal photo and a short Motivational Essay describing why you wish to become a Rotary Exchange Student (submitted on-line).
- e) In addition, you will need to have two (2) Letters of Recommendation (submitted by e-mail to D5630RYE@gmail.com)
- f) All application materials must be complete and submitted no later than **October 15th**.
- g) This is a Rotary-Sponsored program. You must be sponsored by a local Rotary Club. If you do not know who to contact at your local Rotary Club, E-mail D5630RYE@gmail.com

2. DISTRICT INTERVIEWS will be held on Saturday, November 18th, 2023

- a) Student applicants and their parents MUST PARTICIPATE in these interviews.
- b) As part of District Interviews, applicants will be required to give a 4-minute speech about an assigned topic about Rotary International projects, themselves, or their community.
- c) An overnight lock-in and social activity is scheduled for all applicants. All applicants are invited and encouraged to attend this activity.
- d) The interview events will conclude approximately 9:00 am on Sunday.
- e) Students will be notified by December 1st whether or not they have been selected for the District 5630 Rotary International Youth Exchange Scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- f) Selected students will be PROMOTED to FULL APPLICANT status.

3. FULL APPLICATIONS must be completed and submitted by January 15th, 2024

- a) The Full Application is completed on-line by providing additional information about the student's family, school and any language experience.
- b) Country preferences may be updated.
- c) Three local families willing to host an inbound exchange student for 3-4 months of 2024-25 year.
- d) Letters of introduction to the future host family are written by the student and student's parents.
- e) Vaccination Records must be obtained.
- f) Passport must be obtained (must be valid at least 6 months beyond the expected end of exchange.)
- g) Medical History and Examination form must be completed by a physician
- h) Dental Health form must be completed by a dentist.
- i) School Transcript must be obtained.
- j) Sponsoring Rotary Club Endorsements must be signed
- k) Legal Agreements, disclosures, consents and releases must be signed by student and parents/guardians.
 - Students and Parents must sign a contract to follow the rules for Rotary International Youth Exchange. All information provided must be truthful and complete, especially as related to depression and anxiety. Such details may not disqualify a student for selection but could affect where students can be placed. Students may be required to sign a similar agreement for their host district. Failure to follow the rules of Rotary Youth Exchange will result in the early termination of the student's exchange and he/she will be sent home.
- l) All information and documents will be submitted on-line with provision for digital signatures.

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4. Successful Students and their parents are required to participate in:

- a) Three (3) on-line webinars scheduled for late-January, mid-March and early-April (Sunday evenings 8-9 pm).
- b) Outbound Student and Parent Orientation early-February, in Grand Island, NE to learn about:
 - Rules of the Rotary International Youth Exchange Scholarship Program
 - Expectations and other requirements of the Rotary Program
 - Making travel and visa arrangements
 - Youth protection in the Rotary Program and living in a different culture
 - Students will meet and interact with recent exchange students during lock-in and overnight activities.

5. Student's country requests will be determined by the availability of an exchange partner in the selected country.

- a. Exchange matches are generally completed during December-January. Students will be notified as soon as their match is confirmed by the Rotary International Exchange Officer in the selected country. Student preferences are pursued but cannot be guaranteed.

6. Students will also be encouraged to attend the Rotary District 5630 Annual Conference (usually in early May, most likely North Platte, NE and schedule TBA).

7. Scholarship recipients will attend Outbound Camp.

- a) A 5-day camp that prepares them for the Rotary Scholarship International Exchange experience. The camp is scheduled for late June, in Siloam Springs, Ark. All expenses and travel arrangements are covered for this final training experience.

Rotary International Youth Exchange Study Abroad Scholarship District 5630 Flat Fee: \$7,000 includes

- A. Parent and student orientation sessions for study abroad program
 - a. On-line webinars (January, March, April)
 - b. Outbound Orientation weekend (February)
 - c. Outbound Camp (5 days) in June
- B. Round-trip travel from Omaha, NE or Denver, CO (with guaranteed immediate return if necessary*)
- C. High school tuition in foreign high school
- D. Room and Board with 1-3 pre-approved host families
- E. Cultural and Language immersion
- F. Monthly Rotary stipend (approximately \$75-100/month: in local currency)
- G. Health and Liability insurance
- H. Foreign Visa fees
- I. Travel agency fees
- J. Language learning resources
- K. Local support and counselor and supervision in host country
- L. Rotary shirt, exchange pins and business cards
- M. Rebound Camp (debriefing and support for returned students)
- N. Life-long opportunities to engage with other exchange students
- O. Life-long benefits of being a member of the Rotary International family

**The fee may need to change if there are any significant increase in airfare.*