



# The Rotary Youth Exchange Program

## Petaluma, Petaluma Valley and Petaluma Sunrise Rotary Clubs

**For more information or questions, please call:**  
**778-1382, 763-2020 or 763-4540**

**What is Rotary?** Rotary is the world's oldest service club organization. Members representing a cross section of each community's business and professional leaders meet weekly in clubs that are non-political and open to all cultures, races and creeds.

Our motto is "Service Above Self" as we provide service in the community, workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and build goodwill and peace through programs like Youth Exchange.

With more than 30,000 clubs in over 160 countries, the Rotary network of volunteers is highly capable of providing the necessary support for the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Rotary clubs have sponsored successful international youth exchanges for more than 30 years.

For more information about Rotary International and our Youth Exchange program, visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Click on RI Programs and then Youth Exchange, or visit the District 5130 website at [www.youthexchange5130.org/](http://www.youthexchange5130.org/)

**Who is eligible?** Rotary Youth Exchange programs are open to qualified students ages 15-19, relatives of Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. To qualify, applicants should be above-average students who demonstrate leadership in their community and/or school. Candidates should also possess qualities that will enable them to become excellent cultural ambassadors, such as flexibility and willingness explore. All applicants must be sponsored by one or more of the three Petaluma Rotary clubs and must complete a written application and oral interview.

**How much will it cost?** Typically, exchange students and parents or guardians are responsible for:

- Round-trip airfare to the host country.
- Health and accident insurance acceptable to the host club and district.
- All travel documents, such as passports and visas.
- Clothing and spending money.
- An emergency fund for your use during the year.

**As an exchange student, what are my responsibilities?**

- Agree to abide by all program rules of your host Rotary club and district.
- Accept the supervision of the host district, host club and host family.
- Act as an ambassador of the United States.
- Be open to new experiences and cultural differences.

**Which countries can I visit?** Presently, Youth Exchanges are taking place in more than 82 countries. Upon review of your preliminary application, we will inform you of the current opportunities. Wherever you go, you will discover that the world is smaller than you once thought, and that you can gain a great deal from the unique experience of being a Rotary Youth Exchange participant

**How do I apply?** To apply to participate as an outbound exchange student in 2007 (approximately August 2007 to July 2008), complete the Preliminary Outbound Student Application form (page 3). Fax (1-847-789-9050), mail or deliver it to Lili Goodman Freitas, Ph.D., 620 B Street, Petaluma, CA 94952. Dr. Freitas **MUST receive** your application on or before Monday, November 20, 2006.

We will contact you no later than December 1st to discuss your application and inform you of further program details.



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**What's next?** Upon review of your preliminary application, you and your parents/legal guardians may be invited to participate in an oral interview and asked to complete a more extensive application form. During the oral interview, be prepared to introduce yourself with a brief speech (5 minutes or less) and to answer a variety of questions, samples of which are shown below.

### **Students: Questions you should be prepared to answer:**

1. What activities do you participate in outside of school?
2. What languages do you speak other than English?
3. What opportunities have you had speaking in front of groups?
4. What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
5. What types of books do you read? How many books do you read each month?
6. Why did you apply to become a Youth Exchange student?
7. What do you think is the most important aspect about representing Petaluma and the United States abroad?
8. Describe three issues that are facing our country today?
9. What world event or issue is of particular interest to you?
10. Have you ever spent any time away from home? If so, where did you go and for how long?
11. Who is a role model for you? Why?
12. Describe your greatest accomplishment?
13. If someone asked you to do something that you did not think was appropriate, how would you handle the situation?
14. Give an example of a personal weakness. How do you think that this will affect you on your exchange?
15. Do you have responsibilities at home? If so, what are they?
16. Do you think that you may get homesick? If so, how will you handle it?
17. Will you attend church with your host family if they are of a different faith? How do you feel about this?
18. How would you go about meeting friends in a new country?
19. What leadership roles have you assumed in school or in our community?
20. How do you plan to share your experiences with family and friends when you return home?
21. What is the most difficult decision that you have ever had to make?
22. What is the most difficult or challenging situation that you have faced in your life?
23. What was the happiest day of your life?
24. The customs and food will be very different from home. Are you looking forward to these new experiences?

**Save this sheet**

### **Parents/Legal Guardians: Questions you should be prepared to answer:**

1. How do you feel about your son/daughter going aboard for a year?
2. Do you have any immediate concerns about traveling to foreign countries?
3. Do you think your son/daughter will be homesick? If so, how will you deal with it, and how will you help him/her cope with feelings of homesickness?
4. Is your youngster cooperative and does he/she follow directions and instructions well?
5. Whose ideas was it to apply for this program? Are you thoroughly committed to let your youngster participate in the exchange?
6. Have either you or your youngster every traveled abroad? Where?
7. Will you object if your youngster is placed with a host family of a different religion?
8. Does your son/daughter enjoy trying new things?
9. Does your son/daughter eat a variety of foods?
10. Does your son/daughter have any medical concerns that we should be aware of?
11. Are you planning any major lifestyle changes while your youngster is abroad (e.g., marriage, divorce, moving)?
12. Is any member of your family seriously ill? If so, would you expect your student to return home for a funeral?
13. Would you be willing to host a student from another country in your home? How would you foresee him/her fitting in? How would you make the student feel comfortable and welcome?
14. What last minute advice would you give as your youngster just before he/she departs?
15. Do you have any reservations or concerns at this time?



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## Preliminary Outbound Student Application

Application for a Rotary Youth Exchange District 5130 Long-Term Program

*Yes, I am interested in representing the United States of America as an exchange student!*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Current grade: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Your interests, activities, hobbies:

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Your extracurricular activities at school:

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Non-native languages you have studied (including number of years studied):

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Your past travel experiences:

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Reasons you wish to become an exchange student:

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What do you hope to accomplish during and after your exchange?

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Do your parents support your quest to become an exchange student?  Yes  No  Unsure

Parents' and/or Legal Guardians' Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Where to send your completed application:** Fax to 1-847-789-9050, mail or deliver it to Lili Goodman Freitas, Ph.D., 620 B Street, Petaluma, CA 94952. Dr. Freitas MUST receive your application on or before Monday, November 20, 2006. We will contact you no later than December 1st to discuss your application and inform you of further program details.