



How Things Flow and What is Needed/Expected:

Perspectives from the District Youth Exchange Committee and the RI Youth Exchange Office

Becky Fontaine, Chair, District 5020 Youth Exchange Committee

Thomas Woods, Senior Coordinator, Youth Exchange Section,
RI Programs



RI Secretariat Staff

John Hewko, General Secretary, RI

Sharon Cyr, Manager, RI Programs

Adam Doty, Manager, New Generations Programs

Kate Hoepfel, Senior Supervisor, Youth Exchange

Tom Woods, Senior Coordinator, Youth Exchange

Jessica Borrego, Service Coordinator, Youth Exchange



Role of Secretariat Staff

- Implement Board policy
- Provide resources and support to Rotarians
- Serve as a general program contact

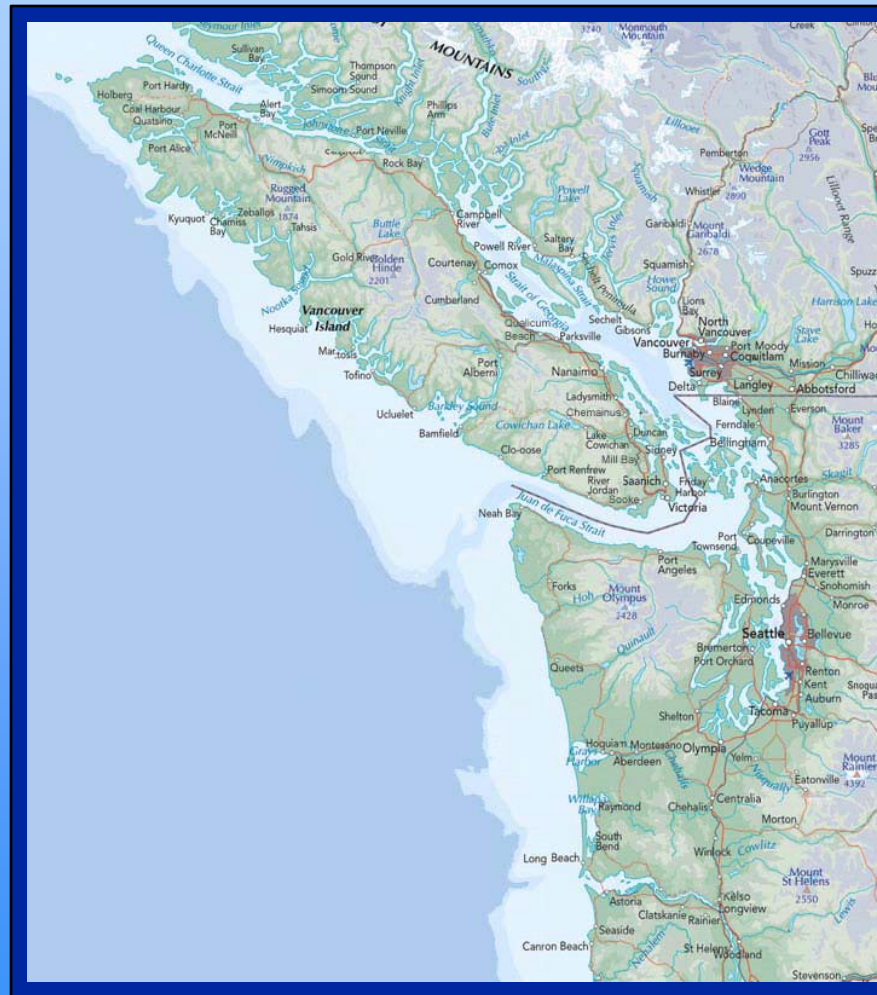


New Generations Avenue of Service

- Enactment by Council on Legislation as Rotary's Fifth Avenue of Service in 2010
- Promotion and cross-promotion of New Generations programs to local youth and Rotarians
- Cultivation of future Rotary members

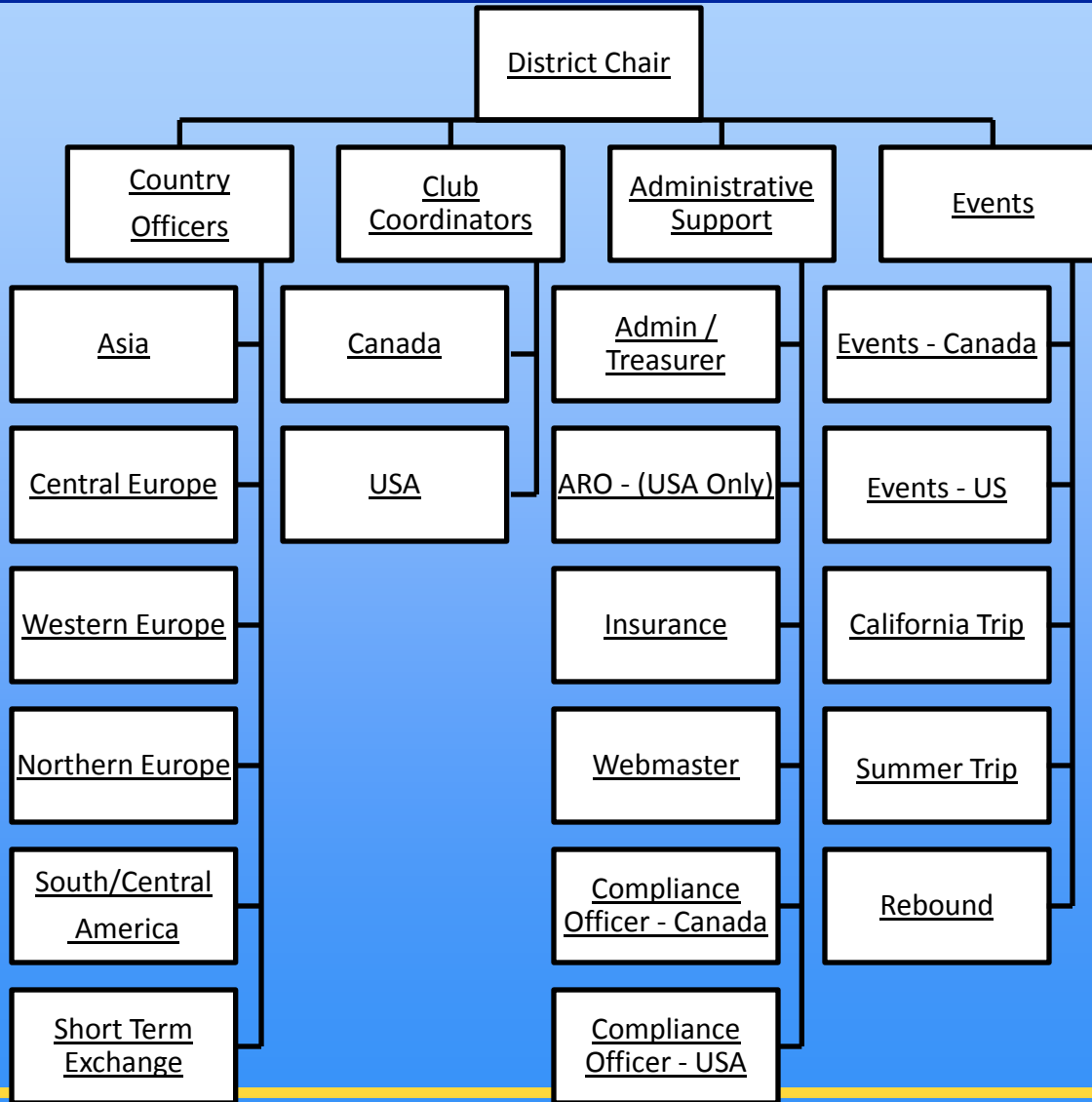


District 5020 – Canada/USA





District 5020 Committee





Rotary Youth Exchange Program

History

- First documented exchanges in 1927; involved only European students
- Became an official program of RI in 1972
- Today includes approximately 80 countries and 8,000 students.

Goals

- Provide young people with the opportunity to experience cultures other than their own
- Give participants a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves
- Develop leadership skills in youth
- Promote World Understanding and Peace



Types of Exchanges

- Long-term
 - homestay program for a full academic year
 - student stays with 2-3 host families
- Short-term
 - Homestay from several days to several weeks
 - tour
 - camp



Program eligibility

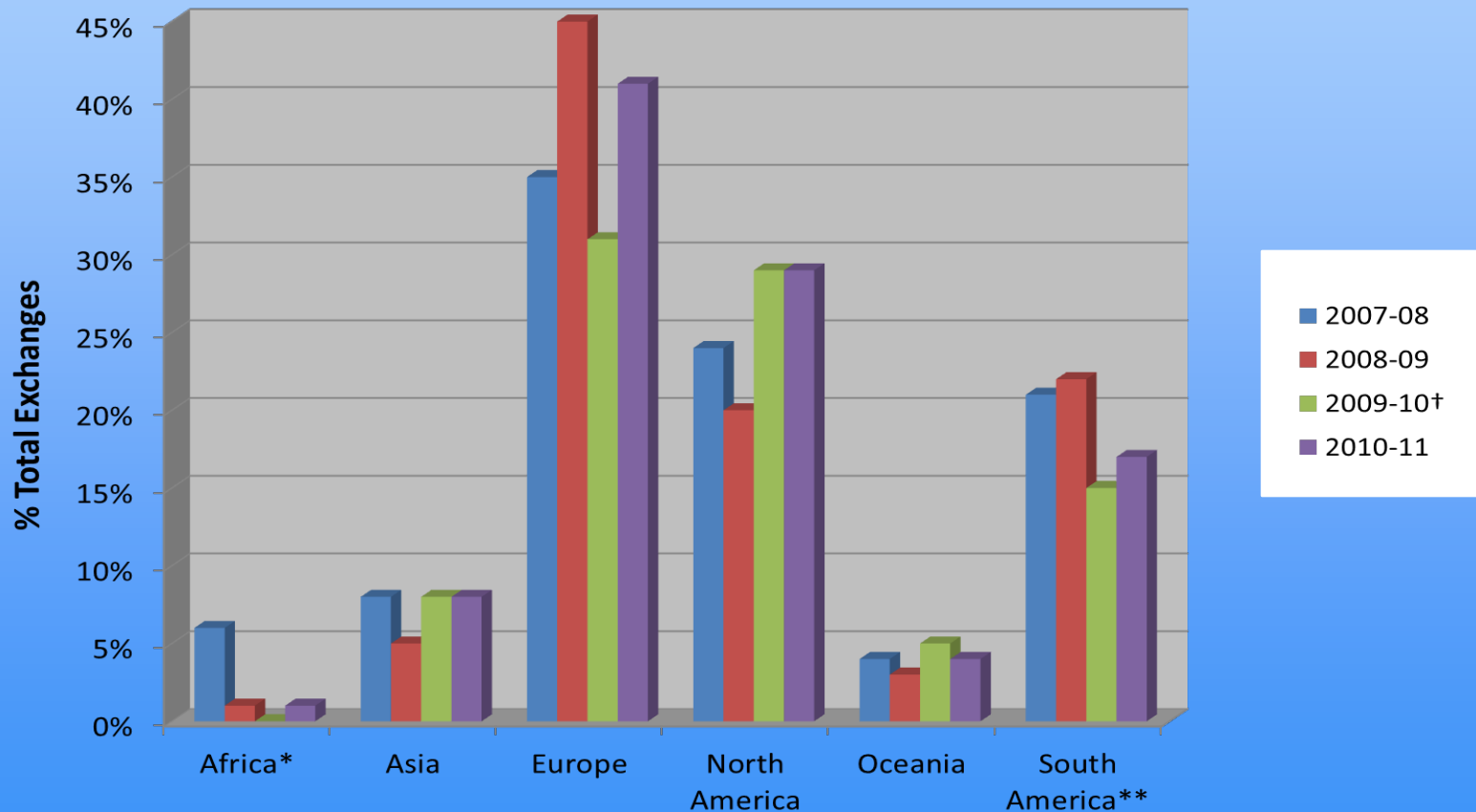
- Students who are:
 - ✓ aged 15-19
 - ✓ at the high-school or equivalent academic level
 - ✓ above-average academically
 - ✓ socially ready to handle living abroad for an extended period
 - ✓ children of Rotarians or non-Rotarians





Program Activity

2007-2011 Historical Analysis of Total Exchanges





How the program operates

Rotary International's Role

- Certification
- District communications
- Assist with serious incidents
- Standard publications
- Annual Survey



How the work flows

- July – Club Training
 - Aug. – Rebound Gathering
 - Sept. – Inbound Orientation
 - Committee Meeting
 - California Trip
 - Dec. – District Interviews & Placement of Long Term
 - Short Term Applications
 - STEP Orientation
 - Mid-Year Gathering
 - March Outbound Orientation
 - May/June District Conference
 - Summer Trip
 - Sept/Oct. - District Council
 - Jan. - District Council
 - March – District Council & District Leadership Training Assembly
 - May/June - District Council
- Each council meeting requires a written report
- RI Reports
 - Quarterly Multi-district Conf. Calls
 - Other Conferences – NAYEN, EMMA, etc.



District Certification

- 88% districts certified in 106 countries/geographical areas
- Annual renewal process
- Recertification approx. every 6 years
- Program evaluations
- Outbound-only certification
 - Certified to send outbound-only: 3020, 3280, 9110, 9200 (not Eritrea), and 9220 (Reunion and Mayotte are fully certified)



District Recertification

- Districts recertify every 4-6 years
- Why recertification?
 - District leadership turnover
 - Keep apprised of local laws/regulations
 - Learn about best practices and successes
- Review district youth protection policies, general liability insurance, and incorporation



Certification Requirements

Youth Protection

- Provides a framework for protecting Youth Exchange students:
 - All allegations of abuse or harassment must be reported to and investigated by local law enforcement.
 - All Rotary clubs and districts must comply with local laws for youth protection.



Certification Requirements

District Governor Authority

- District governor has authority over the program.
- Certification requirements must continue to be met in order for district to participate in the program.
- District has a system to ensure club compliance with district Youth Exchange policies.



Certification Requirements

Reporting to Rotary International

- Annually submit inbound student data.
- Complete annual survey.
- All serious incidents (e.g. early return, accident, crime, death, etc.) and all allegations of abuse or harassment must be reported to RI within 72 hours.

Records & Documents

- Document retention policy in accordance with local laws.



Certification Requirements

Volunteer Selection & Screening

- Application
- Interview
- Reference and Criminal Background Checks
- Host families – home visits

Volunteer Training

- All adults (Rotarian and non-Rotarians) involved in the program receive training.
- Program administration, rules, and abuse and harassment awareness and prevention.



Incorporation

- Requirement for district certification
- Several elements required
 - Governor authority
 - Youth Exchange as district program activity
 - Indemnification of corporate members
- Membership in Multidistrict Corporation



RI Annual Requirements

Districts participating in Youth Exchange annually complete the following:

- 1 June – Certification Renewal form due
 - Recertifying districts submit Recertification application.
- 1 month before exchange – Student Data
 - Inbound student guarantee form, or electronic version of host information, e.g Excel file
- Fall – Annual Youth Exchange Survey



District Annual Requirements





Developing a Plan

- Do an assessment or scan the environment
- Develop a written plan
- Get feedback/agreement from key stakeholders
- Implement a plan
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
- Celebrate your successes!



Resources & Support

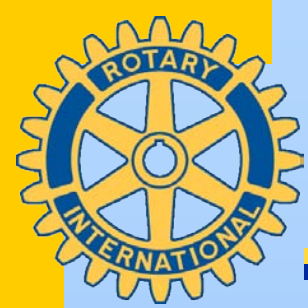
- YEO Directory
- Youth Exchange Workgroup
- E-newsletter (*English-only*)
- Webinars
- Publications



2013 YEO Preconvention



31 March early registration deadline!



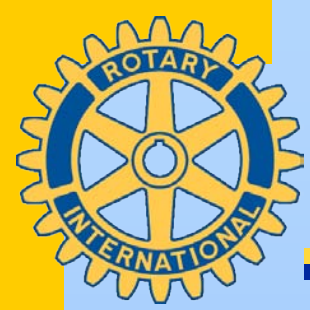
Contact us

Rotary International (PD110)
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201 USA

+1 (847) 866-3421

youthexchange@rotary.org

www.rotary.org/youthexchange



Questions?
