

Rotary Short Term Youth Exchange
NAYEN Conference
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1. Short Term youth exchange is a different program than long term exchange.
 - a. Different target market than long term exchange.
 - b. It is a simpler and less ambitious program—less benefits, reduced cost, time, and effort.
2. Advantages of short term versus long term.
 - a. Easy participation. Commitment of time and effort required by students, host families, and Rotary volunteers is much less. Many involved would not be involved in long term Rotary exchange, which requires a huge investment of time and effort. Special visas and piles of paperwork not required. No government regulation.
 - b. Benefits for participating students
 - i. Provide students a brief window into another culture, country, and/or language.
 - ii. Opportunity to make friends in another country/culture.
 - iii. Have a fun and useful experience. Increased awareness, knowledge, experience, and confidence.
 - iv. May end up participating in a long term exchange program. May end up studying or living abroad. My 18 year old daughter, veteran of 3 short term exchanges is studying law at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.
 - c. Host families.
 - i. Short term offers families the benefits of hosting without making a commitment of several months.
 - ii. A family may only be comfortable hosting for 3 weeks.
 - iii. A family that successfully hosts for 3 weeks may become candidates for hosting a long term exchange student.
 - d. Fewer, less serious, and shorter problems
 - i. Early returns, culture shock, homesickness, and adjusting to return are not concerns.
 - ii. Students must obey rules for brief period. Less opportunity for them to embarrass their country or Rotary.
 - iii. Less risk to students. There is more risk that a problem will develop in 9 months than in 3 weeks. This is why insurance costs longer for 9 months than 3 weeks.
 - e. Short Term problems
 - i. Inappropriate Rotary International rules, forms, mindset, and procedures.
 - ii. Problem of matching in family to family. Sometimes match a boy with a girl.
 - iii. Need to make sure everything is checked out and good to go. No opportunity to take 3 weeks to correct mistakes, the exchange is already over. Make sure that:
 1. Family members are present to be with guest
 2. Accommodations are comfortable
 3. Expectations for the exchange are agreed and understood by both parties.

- iv. Matching school holidays can be a problem.
- 3. The District 5220 system—simple and efficient
 - a. Simplified forms (more information below). No dental form. No medical form but letter from Doctor regarding student's health.
 - b. Only one interview, it has both Club and District representatives and is held in the home of the applicant with their parents.
 - c. Anyone who is qualified can go on the trip as demand from our German partners is greater than demand in our District. You don't need a superstar if they are only in the country for 3 weeks.
 - d. We will take more German students than we send to Germany
 - i. Allows more German students to participate
 - ii. Allows host families to participate without sending a child
 - iii. Guarantees places in the program for all qualified applicants even if they cannot host.
 - e. All inbound students to California participate in a 3 day camp at Yosemite National Park. California students can choose to participate. This is an attractive aspect of the program to our Rotary exchange partners.
 - f. Our partners include Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Mexico, Switzerland and Brazil.
- 4. The economic depression in our District has reduced the number of students able to afford the program.
- 5. Cost to participate in Rotary District 5220 program:
 - a. Sponsorship fee, \$400. Paid by sponsoring club. Covers cost of camp in Yosemite and other program expenses.
 - b. Air fare, \$1,200. This is cost to fly from USA to Europe and back. May be more or less depending upon conditions.
 - c. Insurance as required by Rotary International. \$125 for cheapest policy.
 - d. Pocket money. We recommend \$300 as a minimum.
- 6. Marketing Plan
 - a. District website
 - b. Brochure that can be used for more than one year which directs students to visit the website.
 - c. Blast e-mail to District Rotarians
 - d. Newspaper Ad, informational meeting. One medium size city in our District recruited ten students with this strategy.
 - e. Newspaper stories
 - f. Interact Clubs
 - g. District Assembly break out session
 - h. RYLA students, past and present.
 - i. Public Service announcement on radio.
 - j. Social media—Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter
- 7. Web Resources
 - a. www.rotary5220.org/Avenues_of_Service/NewGenerations/Exchange/youth_exchange.htm
- 8. New Generations Exchange
 - a. My favorite program, though Rotary International rules are inappropriate as these are young adults.
 - b. 18 to 25 year olds, usually university students
 - c. In our District handled similar to a Group Study Exchange Team.
 - d. Our partners have included Brazil (District 4730) and Switzerland.