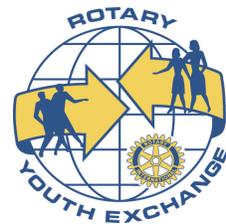


District 6600 Rotary International

Short Term Exchange Program (STEP) Summer Family-to-Family Exchange 2019



To Apply for a STEP Exchange

1. Read the information in this document
2. Go to the link on page 3 to apply
3. Complete the online application
4. Attend **REQUIRED** training sessions. Your parents must also attend at least one.
5. Become a Rotary Exchange Student and have the time of your life!

What is STEP? (Short Term Exchange Program) – Youth Exchange

STEP allows students to experience another culture, country, and language. It offers a fun learning opportunity while building lifelong friendships and helps students grow with increased awareness, knowledge, and confidence.

Rotary International has sponsored youth exchange programs for more than 50 years with the goal of building international goodwill and understanding. Through the Short Term Exchange Program (STEP), two students spend about eight weeks together experiencing each other's family, country, and culture; four weeks with your host family abroad and four weeks in your home.

Exchanges generally occur from June through August. Some southern hemisphere countries have split-season exchanges with American students traveling in July-August and your foreign brother/sister visiting in December-February. We attempt to match students with similar ages, common interests and gender. You will receive information about your host sister/brother by late April and can begin to correspond once the match is confirmed on both sides.

Students should first contact a Rotarian who will direct you to your District STEP Chairperson. The District STEP Chair will help you through the application and interview process. You must be sponsored by a local Rotary Club. Each club belongs to a Rotary District and your District belongs to the Ohio-Erie Multidistrict which consists of thirteen districts in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida as well as a small part of Canada. Ohio-Erie (O-E) works with Rotarians abroad to arrange STEP matches.

Opportunities may exist to host an inbound exchange without sending a student abroad. These are called one-way exchanges. Please contact your local Rotary Club if interested.

Qualifications

The STEP holds its participants to high standards. Students are interviewed by their local Rotary Club/District and participate in district-wide orientations and training. Your family becomes a Host Family while your match is in the United States and will be interviewed with background checks being done on all members of the household 18 and over.

While the application process may seem quite detailed, it is for your safety which Rotary takes very seriously. Please know the same application and similar background check process is being done for any student you become matched with.

The student must meet the following requirements to participate in the STEP program:

1. You must be no less than 15 and no more than 18 years old at time of departure.
2. You and your parents agree to host a student for approximately four weeks during the summer (or December-February if going to southern hemisphere country). Your family is expected to arrange activities for the visiting student.
3. Hosting costs are your responsibility.
4. You are expected not to take a summer job or become involved in other activities if they interfere with your host obligations.
5. Students/families pay the total program costs which includes an administration fee, round trip airfare, insurance and spending money. Some local clubs may offer limited financial assistance.
6. You must read and sign the Participation Requirements form. You and your parents must be willing to strictly abide by them.

Are you a good candidate for the STEP Program? Ask yourself these questions and if they are Yes, you have a good chance of having a successful exchange.

- Do you have an interest in things international, through language classes, social media, friends abroad cultural studies, foreign travel, and/or hosting inbound students?
- Do your parents support your decision to participate in an exchange?
- Do you make friends easily with both adults and people your age?
- Are you polite, pleasant and confident?
- Are you flexible to adapt to new and changing environments?
- Would you be comfortable traveling away from home for 4 weeks or more?
- Are you able to participate in some monthly Rotary meetings held for exchange students? (usually on Saturdays)
- Do you have an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above? This is not mandatory, but a good sign of dedication and discipline.
- Do you have the ability to make presentations to sponsoring Rotary Clubs here and abroad?
- Do you have a sense of humor and a positive and enthusiastic outlook?
- Can you make a firm commitment to the STEP program with minimal time and work conflicts? (Your schedule should not interfere with hosting your brother or sister from another country.)

Rules for Parents and Students - (Also see the Participation Requirements page in the application you will need to sign.)

1. You need to accept the advice and supervision of the Rotary club counselor and of your host parents abroad.
2. You must accept cultural differences in your host country without vocal criticism.
3. You are not permitted to operate a motor vehicle or motorized boat while in another country.
4. You can not drink alcohol during the exchange. In many host homes, wine and light beers are served with meals. This is permissible provided your parents approve. Any misconduct while under the influence of alcohol is sufficient cause to be sent home.
5. The use of illegal drugs, including "pot" is absolutely forbidden. Use of prescription medications not prescribed to the student is cause to terminate the exchange as well.
6. When you host, you should take your foreign brother or sister to a Rotary meeting shortly after they arrive. You should ask to be taken to a Rotary meeting while being hosted abroad.
7. Independent travel is not allowed while abroad. You can travel with your host family with Rotary's permission.
8. You should arrange for day-time and evening activities for your host brother or sister. Inactivity can lead to boredom and homesickness. Families are not required to take their student on "whirlwind tour" of the country, but meaningful activities are encouraged. The same should be expected while abroad.
9. We recommend the use of the Ohio-Erie appointed travel agency, Its Your World Travel. Airline tickets must be paid for in full prior to departure and itinerary provided to Rotary. While Rotary works closely with our approved travel agency, we can not be responsible for travel problems.

How do we Apply?

1. Once you know you want to apply, go to this link:
https://yehub.net/cgi-bin/OER_get.cgi?pgid=apst0
It will take you to our Online application.
2. The online application is very detailed and will take you a while to complete. Please be patient, thorough and complete when filling out the application. Your potential matches will see most of this information and will decide whether or not to match with you based on it.
3. You will certainly have questions during the process. When you do, please contact your District STEP Chairperson listed on the last page of this document. He or she will help you through the process.
4. Costs - The administration fee of \$500 must accompany your application. Make checks payable to "Rotary District 6600." The only other costs are the insurance (see #8) and your airline fare.
5. Once you have completed the application process, your District will also conduct an in person interview with you and your parents or guardians. Based on all this information, they will decide if you will be accepted into the program.
6. Once accepted, you will be required to attend orientation meetings. Your parents will be required to attend at least one of these monthly meetings.

7. Matches are made in February through May in the year that you will travel. Please be patient while the matching process takes place.

8. After you have been matched, you will make travel arrangements and are required to sign up for Rotary travel/medical insurance. The cost is \$4.12 per day. Login in at:

<https://secure.visit-aci.com/insurance/oerye/>

Choose the third option – Short Term Exchange program (STEP) and then the first option Ohio-Erie RYE Students. Send a copy of the receipt to the STEP Chair..

9. You must have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after your arrival back home. Application and instructions can be provided by the Rotary appointed travel agency or a Post Office. Passports take time to get processed, so please do not wait until the last minute to apply. Students traveling to Brazil will also need a visa at an additional cost. Our travel agent will assist you in obtaining the visa.

10. Applications with fees must be received by your sponsoring Rotary Club before **December 1, 2018**. Applications will not be processed until the administrative fee has been received. After this date, your application will only be considered if there is an exchange available and you are willing to go to any country.

11. If your application is unacceptable, the entire administrative fee will be returned to you. If we can not make a match for you, the entire administrative fee will be returned to you. If you withdraw from the program for any reason after your application has been accepted, the application fee may be returned and will be decided on a case by case basis. Once a student has been matched, no refund will be made if the student elects not to make the exchange.

If you've read through this entire document, you are serious about STEP! We hope you will continue the process which will lead to a Short Term Exchange that will change you and your perspective on life! Come and change the world for the better through Rotary STEP!

Application Information and Administrative Fee should be coordinated through Your District STEP Chairperson:

Amber Stover

Rotary Club of Tiffin

3169 East Township Road 130

Tiffin, OH 44883 USA

Home: 1-419-443-8836

Mobile: 1-419-618-4317

amberd6600@gmail.com

How To Contact Ohio-Erie STEP:

John Koetz

Ohio Erie - Youth Exchange STEP Chair

29 Frederick Street

Columbus, OH 43206 USA

John@wedavis.com

Work - [614-443-0533](tel:614-443-0533)

Cell – [614-519-1836](tel:614-519-1836)

www.ohioerie.org