

STUDENT INFORMATION

District 5060 Host Club:

Club Student Exchange Chairman:

Address:

Airport destination:

Dear:

We are pleased that you have been selected to be our guest for the coming school year and hereby wish to welcome you and to tell you that your host Rotary Club is listed above. We suggest that you contact, as soon as possible, the Student Exchange Chairman of this club and tell him about your travel plans (date, carrier, time of arrival, flight number, etc.) to your point of destination which is also identified above. It is your responsibility to arrange your tickets to this point of destination where you will be met by Rotarians from your Host Rotary Club.

GENERAL INFORMATION - Each year we welcome high school students who spend one year living with Rotary or Rotary-approved families while attending secondary schools and participating in all aspects of the North American life. These students come from Districts in Scandinavia, Europe, South and Central America, Australia, and Asia. You have been chosen as a student to participate in this program because you are of above average ability; you are able to make friends easily, are willing to face challenges and to adjust to a wide variety of people under varying conditions. We are hopeful that you will take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate your attractiveness of personality and your spirit of helpfulness in the home, community and in the school. We generally will expect you to adapt yourself to our habits; we do not think that they are better than yours, we only know that they are different. It is the purpose of our program that you should become acquainted with our way of life and tell us about yours. We will do everything in our power to make this year agreeable and profitable for you and hope that you will enjoy your stay with us.

DRIVING AUTOMOBILES - You are not allowed to drive a motor vehicle. This is FINAL. It is useless to ask for permission even if supported by consent of your parents. The high rate of damage claims can be ruinous to all parties concerned. If you are guilty of violating this rule, you will be subject to immediate return to your home country.

ORIENTATION - On a weekend in early to mid-September, a "District 5060 Inbound Orientation" is held which is mandatory for all Inbound students. The registration cost of this orientation is paid for by the Inbound student's hosting club.. This weekend is critical for the successful completion of the inbounds exchange year.

FINANCES -Each student must bring \$500 (US/Can) which is to be put in a savings account for emergency use only. Your host Rotary Club will furnish you with a minimum of fifty (\$50.) a month allowance plus paying any special school fees. Although this allowance is not a generous one, it corresponds approximately to that given to your North American brothers and sisters of the same age. If you need additional money over and above the allowance, you may bring more or have it sent to you by your parents. However, the District does not encourage students having large amounts of money to spend.

INSURANCE - Before getting this Guarantee Form/Information packet, you were required to

purchase a health and accident insurance policy which will cover you during the time you are in North America (unless your sponsoring district has requested a substitute medical insurance that has been pre-approved by our district). Generally, your hosting club chairperson will receive your insurance cards, claim forms, and other related material directly from the insuring company. Upon arrival in your host city, be sure to get your insurance card so that you can keep it in your wallet/purse.

SCHOOLING - You are to attend school faithfully and to maintain satisfactory grades. You may find our school system very different from yours. School hours are generally from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. When a starting time is specified for school or any other event in North America, that means that you must be there at that time. We are sure that the regular attendance at school will help you to understand us better and it will help you to make many friends of your own age.

LANGUAGE - You are to make every effort to learn our language as soon as possible, since the benefits which you will receive from your stay and especially from your school will depend largely on your knowledge of the English language. Advanced knowledge of English is not a requirement, but it is absolutely essential that you make an outstanding effort to try to overcome the language barrier as rapidly as you can. Most students will make the breakthrough in the use of English between six weeks to two months.

EXTENDED STAY - You are here for one school year; do not seek to extend your stay beyond the year allowed. Students (except those from Australia) usually come to us in August of each year. Our normal school year starts in late August/early September, and concludes about June 12th (USA) and June 30 (Canada). You should depart 1 to 2 weeks after the end of the school year.

ADMINISTRATION - The Rotary Student Exchange Program is administered on a District to District level, but you are assigned to one Rotary Club for the full school year. Within the Rotary Club, there will be a Club Youth Exchange Chairperson and Counselor. Find out who these Rotarians are so that if you have any problems, you can seek their help. It must be constantly remembered that you are not the guest of a specific Rotary or Rotary-approved family, but you are the guest of the Rotary Club as a whole.

FAMILY LIFE - You will stay with three or four different Rotary or Rotary approved families. You will be a guest in our homes, however, your North American parents will enjoy you more if you become part of the family and assume household duties that are normal to a child of your age; even when it is not specifically requested. We do not have servants in our homes and therefore, each child is expected to make his bed, keep the room clean, help prepare the meals, do the dishes, take care of his laundry, etc. You may be offered the opportunity to do such things as cut the grass, wash the automobile, etc. Your host family is responsible for you socially, spiritually, and physically. A discussion should be held with your host family concerning curfew hours and dating requirements.

VISAS – Nearly all students in District 5060 are required to obtain both U.S. and Canadian Visas. Your hosting country visa is a “student visa” which does not allow you to be employed.

If you are a student to be hosted by a Canadian Rotary Club in our District, the “student visa” is simply referred to as “student visa”. You must submit the Form No. 23 which is the Guarantee Form (Host Club Consent) to the nearest Canadian Consulate along with your valid passport. For Rotary district events with planned travel to the USA, you are required to obtain a USA “multiple-entry visitor visa”, valid for 1 year,

from your home country's nearest USA Consulate for travel to & from the USA. Some countries are named as "Visa Waiver" and do not require a USA visitor visa if their passport meets certain regulations: this changes frequently so check with your US consulate or see website http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html

If you are a student to be hosted by a U.S. Rotary Club in our district, the "student visa" category is "J-1". You must submit the I-901 Fee receipt, Form no. 23 (Guarantee Form), and Form DS-2019 to the nearest U.S. Consulate along with your valid passport. For Rotary district events with planned travel to Canada, you are required to obtain a Canadian "multiple-entry visitor visa", valid for 1 year, from your home country's nearest Canadian Consulate for travel to & from Canada. Some countries may be exempt: this changes frequently so check with your Canadian consulate or see website <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Please note: "Visa Waiver" applies only to the "non-hosting" country's visitor visa requirement and is called a "multiple-entry visitor visa". All students must obtain a "student visa" for their hosting country.

Failure to obtain a *multiple-entry (valid for 1 year) visitor visa (if not "visa-exempt")* before arrival in either Canada or the US will result in an additional \$500 US charge to you to cover the costs of the visa, travel, and lodging (US and Canadian consulates are more than 250 km from our district).

COST OF THE PROGRAM - It is understood that your parents will pay the cost of all transportation including passport and visa. They will also pay for the cost of clothing and pay the cost of any extra travels that you may undertake.

STUDENT TRAVEL/FAMILY VISITATIONS WHILE IN NORTH AMERICA - Traveling in company with any Rotary or Rotary-approved family is encouraged. Non-Rotary supervised travel is generally not approved, either for pleasure or to visit family/friends in other parts of North America. Any exceptions must conform to strict District rules which include written permission from your host club/club chairperson, the District 5060 Youth Exchange Chairperson, your parents and the Rotary Club/District officer in your sponsoring country.

District 5060 Guidelines sent to your sponsoring YE District Chair provide that—"Inbound students are **not** permitted Rotarian/host family-**unaccompanied** travel outside their host city **before/during/after** their exchange year. They will travel from and return to their home country by the most direct routes. Inbound students will **not** be permitted to travel to their home country and return to their host city during their exchange year. **Family visitations require pre-approval by the District 5060 YE Chair, Hosting Club Chair, and Host Family and in no case before March 15th of their exchange year.** Violations will result in the termination of the exchange. Exceptions for some of these issues will only be re-considered in the event of "family emergencies"."

THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU - Bring only the minimum needs for clothing that you can carry in two suitcases. Do not bring large trunks for they are too difficult to transport and handle. Do bring some nice items of clothing for civic and Rotary events. Try to bring some color slides about your home, your community and your family, which might help you to illustrate the speeches that you make at schools, Rotary Clubs, and elsewhere. If you have any special talent or ability, I am sure that you will find an appreciative audience in the United States

and Canada, for it will help them to know and understand your country a little bit better.

DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL - Remember that you are here as an ambassador from your country and that you are under the direct control and guardianship of Rotary. Even a minor breach of good behavior may cancel out the success of your mission. The good names of your country and of Rotary are too valuable to allow any person under Rotary sponsorship to carry on in a manner unbecoming to a person selected as an ambassador of good will. This principle is to be accepted by sponsoring Rotary Clubs and the parents alike, as well as being agreed to by you, the student. District rules require that you do not become romantically involved during your stay. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is generally NOT legal under the age of 21 in this section of North America. Any student involved with drugs will be sent home immediately.

TRAVELING TO NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT - District 5060 **requires that you arrive with an open return ticket to your home country. This must be purchased before traveling to the U.S. or Canada.** Rotary does not approve of your breaking the journey from your home to your host Rotary Club. Such delays in traveling to your destination are discourteous to your host Rotary Club and to your host family. Whenever possible, you should travel with other students of your country that are coming to North America. When it is necessary for you to make a change of airplane flight at such points of entry to North America as Montreal, Toronto, New York, Miami, San Francisco, etc., please be informed that there will NOT be a Rotarian at the airport to meet you. It will be necessary for you to call upon the help and the services of the airline with which you have tickets. If you do not know our language, the airline can frequently furnish you with an interpreter. It will be up to you to make your own travel arrangements to the point of destination specified in North America.

GENERAL REMARKS - Some of the above rules and regulations may seem somewhat severe, but we feel that it is better that we understand each other at the beginning. These same measures are enforced for North American students staying in your country as Rotary guests. We are most happy to welcome you to North America and we hope you have an experience that you will remember with much pleasure the rest of your life.

Sincerely,

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