

PROGRAM GUIDELINES INBOUND STUDENTS

**** AIRLINE TICKETS:** Make certain that you purchase a **FULL ROUND TRIP RETURN TICKET**. Full means that all airport connections must be showing on the ticket, not just the port of entry into the USA. Your return ticket must be complete all the way through from your starting point to your final destination. Do not plan to buy your return ticket in North America or your connecting flights here in North America. This is the only kind of ticket approved by Rotary Youth Exchange. It may be an “open” or “fixed date” ticket and must be able to be changed with a minimal fee (US \$200 or less). This ticket enables you to return home without difficulty if that need should arise.

You must send a copy of your travel itinerary to your Ohio-Erie District Chairman, Club Counselor and Host Family as soon as it becomes available.

**** INSURANCE:** Basic health and liability insurance coverage for your stay in North America is purchased online at:

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

This policy complies completely with Rotary International requirements.

**** VISA: BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN YOU HAVE THE CORRECT VISA**

You are going to be an **Exchange Student in the United States**, and will need a “**Multiple Entry” J-1 Visa**, from the *US Embassy*. A **DS-2019** form is included with this letter, along with the Rotary Guarantee form. You may will to make an appointment for a personal visit to the nearest U.S. Consulate to obtain your visa. Prior to this interview, you will need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee of US \$220. This may be done on-line at:

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>.

The J-1 visa will allow you to live and attend school in the United States. Travel into the US requires that you have the DS-2019 form in your possession at time of entry. *Staple the DS-2019 into your passport.*

**** EMERGENCY MONEY:** You will be required to set up a **joint “Emergency” bank account** with your Rotary Counselor OR your Host District may hold the money for you in their District account. **This account must have a balance of at least US \$500**. If money is withdrawn for emergencies, it must be replaced immediately. The remaining balance will be returned to you when you leave for home at the end of your exchange.

**DO NOT LEAVE HOME
UNLESS YOU HAVE THE ABOVE ITEMS!**

**** PERSONAL EXPENSES:** You will find that Rotary Clubs and Host Families are very generous, friendly, loving, and caring, however, **DO NOT** expect them to pay for things that are your responsibility. During the year, you may be invited to participate in many events, which are educational, interesting and fun. Souvenirs, joining clubs and activities, or purchasing clothes should be considered in determining how much money to bring with you.

**** IMMUNIZATION:** Be sure to bring copies of all immunizations with you, **with complete dates and dosages**. This information is required by all schools, in order to attend. Failure to have this documentation may result in your not being able to attend school, which could lead to a loss of your student visa status. You will need to make sure that you have a **TB Test done within three months of your school start date**.

**** MEDICAL:** If any medical issues occur, that would change any answer on the medical or dental form of the Long-Term Application, this change **MUST** be reported to your Hosting District Chair within 10 days of the occurrence.

**** HOST FAMILY:** During your stay you will be living with at least two families located in your assigned community. Students may not reside with any relative during the exchange.

**** SCHOOL:** Students must certify that they have not previously been an academic year or semester exchange student in the host country.

Students **MUST** provide a translated “written English language summary” of the exchange student’s complete academic course work.

Some US schools are conducting entrance tests for English fluency and may require the student to undertake a test prior to acceptance in the school. It is important that students have some preliminary English when they arrive.

Students are expected to have regular attendance at school and are encouraged to take a regular course load, which will expose them to the language and culture. Although they may be eligible to get credits or even a diploma, the Rotary Youth Exchange Program does not in any way guarantee this.

Students are strongly encouraged to join school teams or get involved in extra curricular activities (e.g., music, drama, clubs, etc.). This will help them to make friends and to facilitate their integration into the new culture.

**** ATHLETICS & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletics, is not guaranteed. Eligibility is dependent on local school and or state authority.

**** EMPLOYMENT:** Exchange students may not be employed on either a full- or part-time basis during their stay in the United States, but they may accept sporadic or intermittent employment such as babysitting or yard work.

**** COMMUNICATION:** Exchange students are encouraged to communicate with both their host club counselor and host family prior to leaving home. Keep this communication informal – telling them about your family, your interests and your departure itinerary.

**** TRAVEL:** Travel is permitted with host parents or for Rotary club or district functions authorized by the hosting Rotary club or district, with proper adult chaperones. Independent travel is prohibited. Further explanation of travel rules is found in the *Independent Travel Rules* document.

**** APPROVED TOURS:** Several trips are available throughout the year to broaden your exposure to the various parts of the country. Below is a list of some of the trips offered in the multidistrict area:

Eastern Adventure: A 10 day US trip (mid March), which covers parts of eastern United States, including Washington, D.C., New York City, Boston and Gettysburg. Bus trip starts and ends in Columbus, Ohio. The approximate cost is US \$1,400. Additional funds for food and miscellaneous expenses are recommended. Details are found at McMurray Travel website: <http://mcmurraytravel.com>.

Western Adventure: A two week US trip (last 2 weeks of June) is a combination flight and bus. You fly out to Phoenix, Arizona and then take a bus out to the west coast. Points of visit include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Reno, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon. The approximate cost is US \$2,750. Additional funds for food and miscellaneous expenses (approximately another US \$400 - \$500) are recommended. Details are found at McMurray Travel website: <http://mcmurraytravel.com>.

**** RETURN HOME:** Unless you are involved in a Rotary-related trip or travel in the host country with your family (with permission of your host District Rotary Youth Exchange Chair) after school ends for the year, you will be expected to return home within fifteen days of the last day of school. Otherwise you are expected to return home within 3 days of the approved trip end. These are the latest return dates. You may be required to return earlier to accommodate your host District Rotary Youth Exchange District, your host Rotary Club, or your host family. All travel arrangements must be approved before being booked.

Please photocopy these Program Guidelines and leave it with your family.