Lincoln Rotary Club 14

5650 District Conference Update

October 2026

Background on Rotary Youth Exchange

HOW IT GREW

1927 — First exchanges begin, involving only European students

1939 — Exchanges start between California and Latin American countries

1958 — Activities spread to the Eastern United States

1972 — Youth Exchange becomes an official program of Rotary International

BY THE NUMBERS

8,000+ students on exchange each year, in over 80 countries

~$5–6k total cost — one of the most affordable exchange programs

$25–30k scholarship value of an Outbound student placement

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District Inbound Camp with ROTEXes in Hastings, NE





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Fun at the Nebraska State Fair







Outing to Klaus Hartmann's country property



How can you help?

… and why should you?

- Welcome these students to our club
- Host a student next semester
- Spread the word to local high schoolers
- Discover the perks of mentoring or hosting
- Share a testimonial with the audience
- Join — or lead — this committee

Every yes changes a student's year.

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Rotary Youth Exchange Information Meetings

Are you interested in travelling abroad? Studying and living abroad?
Experiencing life in another country and culture?
Know someone else who is? Please share with other teens and adults (teachers, counselors, parents)
The Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program provides high-school students with a **unique and affordable opportunity** to participate in a year-long exchange program.

Benefits for Outbound Students

- Develop fluency in another language
- Develop lifelong leadership skills
- Explore the world

Benefits for ALL Participants

- Build lasting friendships
- Expand your definition of family
- Rotarians are global citizens

Key Info for Outbound Students

- 10-month program (August – June)
- Total cost: $6,000 — room & board, airfare, health insurance, monthly stipend
- Applications accepted till December; selection in Winter

For inbound students, we recruit host families in Spring!

Next Steps:
Lincoln-area clubs hold RYE gatherings at the Lincoln Mill/Telegraph at 6pm *first Tuesday each month.* These meetings are aimed at all interested parties, incl. students, parents, and school counselors/liaisons.
Find out more about RYE here: RYE Program Info. Access a short application form here: RYE Preliminary Application Form 2027-28
Contact your local liaisons: Dr. Regina Werum (rwerum2@unl.edu) & Donna Gould (gabbins@yahoo.com) or district YEO Jessica Geis (jessicageis@yahoo.com).

Your Rotary Youth Exchange Liaisons

Rotary Youth Exchange is an exchange program for high school students. Students travel to other countries to learn about the culture and the language as well as act as a cultural ambassador for their own country.

Program Intro at Rotary Youth Exchange Overview

- Certified by NAYEN and the U.S. Department of State
- Singularly cost effective for participating families
- Scholarships available for families in need
- $6k per student in District 5650 (covers air fare, health insurance, visa fees; clubs provide monthly stipend)

Questions about hosting or applying? Reach out to any of us — we are happy to help.



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