



Dear Rotary Presidents, Youth Exchange Officers, Counselors, and RYE Committee Members:

The Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program is connected to Rotary’s major Area of Focus - Peace and Conflict Resolution and Prevention. The purpose of the RYE program is to build awareness and knowledge of other cultures by exchanging high school students with a desire to broaden their horizons and serve as ambassadors for their Colorado communities. In this spirit, the Rotarian volunteers of Mountain & Plains District 5470 Rotary Youth Exchange wish to promote and support exchange efforts throughout every club in our district.

The following clubs currently have vetted Youth Exchange Officers. If your club is not on this list, please add ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE to your next board agenda and share this correspondence with your board members for their consideration:

Sally	Corcoran	Vail-Eagle Valley
Tami	Duke	Durango High Noon
Jackson	Espeset	Crested Butte
Linda	Hill	Edwards
Charlotte	Karls	Salida Sunrise
Samuel	Kevan	Delta
Patricia	Kiernan	Telluride
Susan	Matthews	Salida
Michael	Moran	Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise
Dale	Mullen	Wet Mountain Valley (Westcliffe), The
Gisele	Pansze	Durango Daybreak
Kaaren	Peck	Rifle
Stephen	Peterson	Montrose
Scott	Russell	Aspen
Blake	Schwank	North Colorado Springs
Lisa	Scott	Pagosa Springs
Douglas	Secrist	Pagosa Mountain Morning (Pagosa Springs)
Jacqueline	Skramstad	Glenwood Springs
Larry	Soukup	Buena Vista
Dean	Swift	Alamosa
Mettje	Swift	Del Norte
Robin	Tolan	Carbondale
Shelley	Walchak	Pine River Valley Centennial (Bayfield-Ignacio)

If your Club is currently considering starting a Youth Exchange program, limited financial assistance is available. Contact Jim Duke ([jimduke@targetrental.com](mailto:jimduke@targetrental.com)) for further details. Although there are several study abroad programs available to high school students, none is quite like Rotary. Rotary Youth Exchange is run by Rotarian volunteers, who are passionate about their role to promote Peace & Conflict Resolution & Prevention. Outbound students throughout the world pay a fee that covers the actual costs of running the program - **\$6,750** paid by each student in D5470 - which is *thousands* less than they would pay elsewhere. Rotary clubs cover school costs, pay a monthly stipend, and secure host

families who cover the students' room and board. This is our way of offering a study abroad **scholarship to each of our student ambassadors**. We have recently begun a new effort to promote the program as a scholarship (see attached flyer). In partnership with local clubs, we even offer additional financial assistance to students who demonstrate significant financial need.

**We ask you to please promote the RYE program in your club, at your local high schools, and throughout your community.** The students will apply online through our [www.mountainandplainsrye.com](http://www.mountainandplainsrye.com) website and will communicate with your club regarding your potential sponsorship. During the first week of November 2019, your club will interview interested candidates and select local students you believe are eligible and good ambassadorial candidates, and they will move on to District Interviews, which are held December 6 - December 8, 2019, in Grand Junction. Further details about the process are provided in the subsequent communications.

Although hosting an inbound student is not an absolute requirement to sponsor a Colorado high school student for this study abroad scholarship, it's important to note that due to our reciprocal exchange obligations with Rotary districts around the world, **every club that sponsors an outbound applicant should expect to host an inbound student OR solicit and secure another club to host in its place.** Host Club Agreements "HCA" (below) for the 2020-21 school year are due by November 15, 2019. If a club signs the HCA, it must agree to all terms, including 2 fully vetted committee members, and first host family vetted, by May 1, 2020. If a club fails to meet these obligations and an inbound student cannot be placed in that club, a \$2,500 fee will be imposed to secure and reimburse the hosting club that takes its place. By November 16, 2019, the Outbound Committee will determine, based on the number of HCAs, how many students our district has the capacity to host for the 2020-21 school year. That is the number of Colorado applicants we can select for the RYE scholarship.

A club that has signed an HCA will be given **first preference** in having their sponsored outbound candidate selected, assuming the student was deemed qualified for exchange at the District Interviews. If a club agrees to host more than one student, it will have the opportunity to have an additional candidate selected as an outbound.

If clubs that are sponsoring an outbound candidate have not agreed to host an inbound student, their candidate will have an opportunity to be selected at District Interviews, as long as we have more hosting clubs that did not have a sponsored student. Example: If we have a club that has three sponsored candidates, but has agreed to host only two inbound students, then two of their candidates will be selected and the third will have a chance only if we have more host clubs that are not sponsoring a student. You will rank these candidates on the Interview Selection Form that you will submit by November 15, 2019, and spots will be offered based on your rankings.

If a club decides to host after November 15, 2019, and it has a student that was not chosen because the club had not signed an HCA, then that candidate will be taken from the alternate list and put on the list of outbound students, if selected at the District Interviews. If a club signs an HCA after November 15, 2019, and does not have a sponsored student, then a student from the alternate list can be selected. Please be aware that if a club decides to host after November 15, 2019, it is still obligated to uphold the provisions of the agreement.

On behalf of the Mountain and Plains District 5470 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee, please accept my gratitude for your thoughtful consideration to participate in the RYE program in 2020-21. Please refer to the next set of documents to get started.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
Jim Duke  
District Chair  
Mountain and Plains District 5470 Rotary Youth Exchange  
[www.mountainandplainsrye.com](http://www.mountainandplainsrye.com)  
[www.facebook.com/mprye](http://www.facebook.com/mprye)

**ROTARY DISTRICT 5470**

**Mountain & Plains Rotary Youth Exchange, Inc.**  
**ROTARY CLUB AGREEMENT TO HOST**  
**Due by November 15<sup>h</sup>, 2019**

**Purpose:** Participation in Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) helps Rotary clubs to meet their obligation to Rotary International's focus on Promoting Peace. Exposure to different cultures ranks as one of the most powerful ways to promote international understanding and peace. The Rotary Youth Exchange program provides thousands of young students with the opportunity to meet people from other countries and to experience new cultures, planting the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

The program offers numerous benefits to its young participants and their Rotarian hosts and mentors, as well as to the community at large. Through Youth Exchange, students learn firsthand about all aspects of life in another country. As their concept of the world expands, they mature and develop a deeper understanding of themselves. Immersion in another country's educational system enhances their academic and personal growth. Host clubs and families and the entire community are enriched by extended, friendly contact with someone from a different culture.

**The Exchange Program:** Rotary Youth Exchange is a full exchange program, which means that for every student we sponsor to spend a year abroad, we are obligated to host a foreign student in his/her place for 10-12 months. We typically receive many more applications from D5470 high school students who wish to spend a year abroad than we have clubs who are willing to host. It is necessary to establish the number of students our district's clubs are committed to host by November 15, 2019, so that we can determine the number of outbound student applicants we can accept for the upcoming year and formalize agreements with our foreign exchange partners.

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**Sponsoring an Outbound Student Applicant:** Clubs may sponsor any applicant(s) who meet the requirements of Long-Term or Short-Term Rotary Youth Exchange. **Due to our reciprocal exchange obligations, every club that sponsors an outbound applicant should expect to host an inbound applicant OR solicit and secure another club to host in its place.** Outbound applicants must submit Part 1 of their applications online at <http://yehub.net/MPR-obapp> by **September 30, 2019**, and the additional documents are required to be completed in entirety by **October 31, 2019**. Applications received online will be available in the YEAH program to Club Youth Exchange Officers, who will conduct local interviews with candidates and their parents. Candidates deemed acceptable by the local club (based on interview and checklist provided by the district) may be forwarded to District Interviews, which will be held December 6 - December 8, 2019, in Grand Junction. Clubs may send as many Rotarian volunteers as they wish to participate in the interview process. The District Interview team will have discretion to select students for participation in Rotary Youth Exchange and make appropriate country assignments: the final determination of selection and assignment of students is at the sole discretion of the MPRYE Executive Committee. **Preference for Long-Term exchanges will be given to candidates whose sponsoring clubs have agreed to host and to candidates who will be 16 or 17 years old while on exchange.** Additional information is available at [www.mountainandplainsrye.com](http://www.mountainandplainsrye.com).

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**Mandatory Volunteer Training:** In order to properly train all volunteers, each Club will send a minimum of one Club Representative, preferably the YEO, to mandatory annual training to take place December 6-8 in Grand Junction. The cost of travel to this event shall be at the expense of the participating Club. The District RYE program will pay for meals and lodging at the event.

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**Agreement to Host:** The District 5470 RYE Committee requires participating clubs to submit an "Agreement to Host" for the 2020-21 school year by November 15, 2019. This form provides the District RYE Committee the information it needs to begin planning for the upcoming year. It also acts as a planning device for the clubs to assure sufficient budgeting and that they have a committee lined up to support the program and the incoming student(s).

**Club President and Youth Exchange Officer: Please type in/sign the highlighted portions the attached form, scan and e-mail to D5470 RYE Vice-Chair Kristi Adams Subject: Agreement to Host- {Your Rotary Club name} E-mail: [vicechair@mountainandplainsrye.com](mailto:vicechair@mountainandplainsrye.com)**

**ROTARY DISTRICT 5470**  
**Mountain & Plains Rotary Youth Exchange, Inc.**  
**ROTARY CLUB AGREEMENT TO HOST**

**Number of Inbound Students:** YOUR CLUB NAME commits to host NUMBER OF INBOUND STUDENT(S) IN 2020-21. We understand that our club will need to select its inbound student(s) and **have at least one host family fully vetted and in place** no later than May 1, 2020, for the student's July or August arrival. We understand that our club will need to budget \$1,500-2,000 to cover the mandatory stipend and school expenses of EACH inbound student we host.

This hosting commitment remains in effect regardless of the number of outbound students who are selected at the district interviews. If our club's number of selected outbound students is fewer than the number of inbounds in this commitment, and if there are ultimately more hosting clubs in our district than outbounds, we will be given the choice to opt out of hosting.

Understanding that reciprocal agreements are made in advance with each foreign partner, in an extreme case where our club opts not to fulfill this commitment to host, we acknowledge and accept that we will pay \$2,500 to Mountain and Plains Rotary Youth Exchange for each dishonored commitment. This fee will provide the mandatory stipend for another club to host as well as additional funding to enhance the Rotary Youth Exchange program. This payment will be waived if WE coordinate alternative hosting arrangements before the deadline, without seeking assistance from the Mountain and Plains RYE volunteer team, or with special circumstances approved by the MPRYE Board of Directors.

**Supervision, Safety & Welfare of Student(s):** Our club agrees to supervise each student during the exchange and to follow the guidelines in the District **Abuse, Harassment & Neglect Prevention Policy** to ensure his/her safety. Our club agrees to provide for the welfare of the student in approved host family homes (**it is a Department of State regulation that clubs may NOT pay a host family a stipend to host a student**). Our club will arrange for a year of study at the high school level. Our club will provide the student(s) a monthly allowance between \$100 to \$150 (suggested as an adequate amount to cover miscellaneous personal and recreational expenses typical of a teenager in our community) as well as meals and fees at our club meetings. Our club will also provide all school fees and a cell phone with minutes during his/her exchange year. In addition, our club may add benefit(s) for the student(s) such as: (i.e. recreational passes (ski), sports participation fees, gym membership, ski/snowboard equipment, etc.).

**Student Obligations:** Student(s) hosted in District 5470 are expected to provide (on their own) appropriate clothing for our area, district- approved health and accident insurance, and an emergency fund of \$500 (to be returned to the student in cash if unused at end of exchange). In addition, our club expects the student to provide:

Please specify:

**Support of Student Roles as a Student Ambassador:** Our club agrees to provide each student guidance and support and to assist him/ her in their role as a Student Ambassador to our community, including involving the student(s) in our Rotary Club and Rotary District events, arranging activities typical of our country, region & city and assisting the student(s) in arranging opportunities to represent the goodwill of his/her country in our community.

**Club-level RYE Program Involvement:** Our club agrees to provide adequate support for the RYE program and students hosted in our club by involving a minimum committee of two Rotarians. Members of this committee may be the Club President, Club Youth Exchange Officer (YEO), and Club Counselor. The YEO and Club Counselor may not be the same person; and neither may concurrently serve as a host parent. The U.S. Department of State requires certification by each Rotarian who serves as a YEO and a Club Counselor by passing a Criminal Background Check (CBC), submitting three personal references, and completion of four training modules: Youth

Protection Awareness, Department of State Local Coordinator Training, Volunteer Training and Counselor Training. The four modules will take at least a total of two full hours to complete and may be done at different times. Our club also agrees to support and encourage our volunteers' participation in any additional in-person or online training opportunities that may be offered. We understand that our club's participation in District Interviews (December 6 - December 8, 2019, in Grand Junction) is requested. Each club that signs this agreement will be allocated one vote in the Outbound selection process at District Interviews, which will be exercised by the club's YEO or YEO-designee.

**Rules & Policies of District Program:** Our club agrees to follow the rules and policies of the District 5470 Mountain and Plains Rotary Youth Exchange, Inc. program and to abide by decisions of the District RYE Committee regarding the student's exchange. Note that all inbound students have also agreed to same rules and policies.

Agreed by:

Club President Signature

Club Youth Exchange Officer Signature

Printed Name:

Printed Name:

e-mail:

e-mail:

Phone:

Phone:

**Please let us know who is responsible for the following Youth Exchange roles at your club:**

\*Club President 2020-21201

e-mail:

Name:

e-mail:

Phone:

\*Other

Name:

e-mail:

\*Club RYE Counselor

Name:

e-mail:

Phone:

\*Other

Name: