

Student Rules & Expectations

DISTRICT 6250 ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

As a Youth Exchange Student sponsored by District 6250, you must agree to the following rules and conditions of exchange. Violations will result in a district review and restrictions. **Students may be sent home if they disobey these rules.**

1) Obey all USA laws. If you break a law, you should not expect any help from your sponsors or home country, other than a referral to an attorney (who must be paid by you) or a referral to the Public Defender's Office (which can represent you at public expense if you meet financial criteria). If you are arrested, you will (may) be returned home as soon as you are released by authorities.

2) Possession or use of any illegal drugs will likely lead to the end of your exchange and your being sent home.

3) Smoking is illegal in the United States for those under age 21. You are not allowed to smoke on your exchange.

4) You may not drink alcoholic beverages. The drinking age in the United States is 21.

5) You may not operate any motorized vehicle (car, scooter, ATV, etc.). You may not participate in driver education programs.

6) You may not steal. There are no exceptions.

7) You must get permission in advance for travel outside the State of Wisconsin. Unauthorized travel is not allowed. Request travel at least five days ahead of time using this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJfLpyi7zCh0vipnfuSF6OymrcsQeSx9zoNEwthkgGIH_iKw/viewform

8) You must obey all school rules. You must attend school regularly and make an honest attempt to succeed. We do not require any specific grade as long as you are trying your best.

9) You may not have a full- or part-time job. However, you may accept informal, occasional employment for money (for example, babysitting or yard work).

10) You may not have a serious boyfriend or girlfriend. You may have an occasional date for special events such as prom or homecoming.

11) Participation in district-organized RYE weekends is mandatory. Exceptions will be jointly approved at the discretion of the YEO and District IB coordinator. Examples may include illness or special event with the host family, Rotary club or school.

Common Sense Rules

1. Become a part of your Host Family. Help around the house and do the same types of chores as other teens in the family. Respect your Host Parents' wishes. You should ask your host family often what you can do to make your stay with them better.
2. Learn the language. Talk to others, even if it is difficult at first. Teachers, Host Parents, Rotarians, and others in the community will appreciate your efforts. It will help you to make connections in the community and to make lifelong friends.
3. Attend Rotary-sponsored events and host family events. Ask questions and show interest. Volunteer to get involved; do not wait to be asked. The more you try to be a part of American life, the more you will get out of your exchange.
4. Do not spend much time on the phone or Internet talking with friends or family from home, or streaming videos from home. You will be *less* homesick if you limit your contact with your home country.
5. Be respectful of data limits on your host family's wi-fi account. Ask for permission before using a host family's telephone, and do not make telephone calls on the host family's land-line phones without permission.
6. Get involved in your school and community. Plan your free time activities around your school and community friends. Do not spend all your time with the other exchange students.
7. Choose friends in the community carefully. Ask for advice from your host families, counselors and school personnel in choosing friends.
8. Do not borrow money. Pay any bills you incur promptly.
9. Students must travel with an adult when traveling out of town or overnight.
10. If you are offered an opportunity to go on a trip or to an event, make sure you understand any costs you must pay and your responsibilities **before** you go.
11. You must follow any rules with respect to COVID testing before Rotary events, and you may need to test at other times. Your YEO will provide you with test kits.
12. Your emergency fund is for **emergencies**, not for regular expenses. If any of the money is used, your parents or guardians must refill the account. Unused money is returned to you at the end of the exchange.
13. If you leave the exchange program and return home early, you and your family are responsible for any costs due to the early return.
14. You may not get a body piercing or a tattoo while on your exchange.
15. We **strongly discourage** visits by your family or friends from home during the exchange. It may be possible for a visit during the last month or two of your exchange when school is finished for the year. You would need the permission of the host club and District 6250 Youth Exchange.
16. Talk with your host club counselor, host parents, or other trusted adult if you experience any form of abuse, activity or conversation that makes you feel uncomfortable.
17. You should never get in a vehicle if you feel unsafe or believe the driver appears impaired (intoxicated or high).