

## District 6250 Rotary Youth Exchange: Inbound Weekend Event Participation Policy

An important part of your youth exchange experience is making connections with other Inbound students in our district. When you signed up to be a Rotary Exchange Student, you agreed to take part in activities related to the program. Rotarian volunteers work together to develop a calendar of events with fun and educational programs to enhance your experience. This policy outlines your participation requirements.

1. You are required to attend the *Inbound Orientation Weekend*, scheduled in September, in its entirety. We are required by the U.S. Department of State (DoS) to provide you training on many topics. This weekend event covers D6250 rules in addition to the DoS rules.
2. You are expected to attend all other Inbound Weekends. This is your opportunity to have fun with the other Inbounds in the district. This also gives your Inbound Coordinators the chance to talk to you in person. This is very important, especially if there are any problems we need to sort out.

### Excused Absences

We do our best to avoid popular weekends for Homecoming, Spring Break or Prom. However with 15+ high schools hosting students in our district, and with so many sport and cultural activities, it is impossible to avoid all conflicts.

We will usually not excuse attendance for regular team sports games, rehearsals, parties, etc. We will consider excusing you from part or all of a weekend if there is a very important activity where your presence is needed. Examples include:

- a season-ending tournament for a debate team,
- the state championship for a high school sport in which you are playing,
- a dance recital for the end of a semester in which you have a crucial part.

You may request an excused absence from part or all of an Inbound Weekend (excepting the September Orientation event) using the following process.

- Submit a request at least four (4) weeks ahead of the event using the [Excused Absence form](#).
- Explain why it is important for you to miss the IB weekend and how the activity for which you are missing the weekend contributes toward your development as a Youth Exchange Student.
- You will need the permission of your club's Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) AND the District IB Team.

### General Tips

- You are encouraged to add the IB Weekend Events to your calendar at the beginning of the exchange.
- If you are involved in school or club activities, check for conflicts and explain your Rotary commitments early to your sports coach / club leaders.
- We are more likely to grant an early weekend departure or a late arrival for an IB Weekend than missing the entire weekend. But you need to consider the burden this may place on Rotarians providing your transportation.
- Do not plan your own district event gatherings. We sometimes receive requests from students who wish to meet with more frequently. This is not possible given the distance across our district (+300 km), limitations of budget and Rotarian volunteer time. You are not allowed to plan an event bringing together IB students because of chaperone and insurance requirements.

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Effective: February 20, 2023