

Youth Exchange

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program offers a chance for all clubs to take part in this special opportunity for world understanding. The main program offering is a year-long stay where a youth stays in a foreign country to study at the high school level and live with a local family (or a series of families). A shorter term program is also offered during the summer months; no school attendance is required, but a returning outbound youth brings a sibling from the hosting family for a reciprocal stay in the original outbound's home country during the same summer.

The August 1965 Governor's Monthly Letter explains the beginnings of the Youth Exchange Program in District 7280:

District 741 in the Northeast part of Pa. adopted a Student Exchange Program in 1959, which has developed to the point where it is considered a model for other Districts. This year over 100 students will be exchanged by District 741. During the past several years, some clubs in our District have been exchanging students on their own, especially our Sharon club. Some of you will remember that Dr. Jack Stefanick of the Sharon club introduced several such students at our District Conference in Butler last Spring. At said conference, the proposal that our district adopt a District Youth Exchange Program was put to a vote....

The February 1966 Governor's Monthly Letter stated "Our District Youth Exchange Program Is Now Approved: This program was put to a vote at our District Conference last Spring in Butler. Since only 25 clubs voted at that time, the remaining 19 were polled by mail. To date 16 of these have voted leaving 3 that have not yet decided or reported their decision. The results: In favor, 31; Not in favor, 10 (generally because of involvement in other programs); and Not decided, 3. To date and unofficially (District-wise) the Sharon club has hosted two students for one year (one from Australia and one from South Africa – both returned Jan. '66) and is currently hosting another. Four students from Sharon are now in foreign countries. The Hickory, Greenville and Erie clubs are each hosting a student." One governor's newsletter in 1982 or 1983 stated that from 1965 through 1982, we hosted 378 inbound students (about half male) and sent out 371 outbound students (curiously, only about one third male).

In some years, upon their return to District 7280 after the end of their exchange year, Rotarians would treat the outbound students, known as "Rebounds," and their families at a picnic. The event served as a reunion for the Rebounds who would share stories and experiences from their years abroad and as a chance for families and Rotarians to see the benefits and rewards of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. In 1994, for example, such a picnic was hosted by the Presque Isle club. Rebounds were organized for many years into a group called "ROTEX" and were active in the 1970s, 1980s, and early 1990s. They would help the district's Youth Exchange Committee organize and host events for the inbound exchange students and help raise money for these events. Such events include the orientation for newly arrived students; sight-seeing trips such as to Niagara Falls, Lancaster-Hershey-Gettysburg-Harrisburg-York, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC.; ski trips; and Christmas parties.

Also, for a number of years, a whirlwind four-week tour of the USA was organized for inbound students in June. For example, in 1969, this trip involved 116 exchange students and 7 chaperones from several eastern districts in 3 buses traveling for 23 days throughout the West. However, this effort was discontinued in 1999 due to the difficulty getting chaperones and due to insurance concerns.

Youth Exchange: Inbound Students			
Year	Exchange student	Country of Origin	Host Rotary Club
1965	6 students		
1966-67	Arnold Hardick Bengt Humble Par W. L. Brage Olof Lavemar Liselotte Nilsson Bodil Sonesson Stefan Fagrell Gorel Andren Ulrika Marie Thunell Alfredo Millon	Holland Sweden Sweden Sweden Sweden Sweden Sweden Sweden Sweden Sweden Argentina	Sharon/West Middlesex Sharon Butler Hickory Greenville Kittanning Evans City Port Allegany Chicora Erie
1967	3 students		
1969-70	19 students		
1970	Per Olov Gustafson Kerstin Persson Miriam Knight Mahito Sato Fernando Rodriguez Bjorn R. Lindgren Norton Caldeira Marta Bartola	Sweden Sweden Australia Japan Mexico Sweden Brazil Argentina	New Castle Slippery Rock Butler? Slipery Rock Fairview Erie Meadville Erie?
1971	Ricardo Alvarenga	Brazil	Warren
1974	31 incoming		
1975-76	27 students		
1976-77	14 students	Australia, Brazil, Chili, Bolivia, New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay	
1977-78	16 students	7 countries	
1978	Delia Minnaar	South Africa	DuBois
1981-82		Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Phillipines, South Africa, Sweden	
1983-84	Russell Cletta	Sweden	New Castle

Youth Exchange: Inbound Students			
Year	Exchange student	Country of Origin	Host Rotary Club
		Also, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, Ecuador, Faroe Islands, Germany, Finland, Mexico, Thailand	
1984 or 5	Sergio Cunolo	Argentina	East Brady?
1985-86	Gus Altavista Ron West	Argentina England	East Brady Slippery Rock
1986-87			
1987	Helena Strijdom	South Africa	Zelienople?
1988	Tracey Frazek-Allen Sheree Tricker Elaine Lima Andre Vilela	South Africa New Zealand Brazil Brazil	Erie Presque Isle Kearsarge Greenville
1989-90	Christophe Guisset Alain Nelis Hasso Jean Hammerle Nur Indah Harahap Charlotte Duus Yolanda Aguilar Ramirez Maria Pena Vicky Levy Heiko Raveling Peter Sauer Birte Wagner Tania de la Fuente Gomez Katja Stenstrom Yukiko Matsuda Bettina Fischer Johanna Camargoo Ortiz Hrvoje Juricic Argiro Anagnostu Fabiana Maia Matthew Scherf Alan Paiotti	Belgium Belgium Venezuela Indonesia Denmark Peru Spain Brazil Germany Germany Germany Mexico Sweden Japan Switzerland Columbia Yugoslavia (Croatia) South Africa Brazil Australia Brazil	Chicora New Castle Evans City Slippery Rock Elk Valley Grove City Slippery Rock Erie East Brady Port Allegany Meadville Zelienople Cranberry New Castle Presque Isle Greenville Erie Sharon Kearsarge Bessemer Sharon
1991-92	Emil Vitaliani	Yugoslavia (Croatia)	Slippery Rock
1993	Martina Vidovic	Yugoslavia (Croatia)	Kearsarge
1996-97	17 students	Poland, Croatia, Ukraine, Hungary among other countries	
1998-99	Martina	Sweden	Mt. Jewett

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Year	Exchange student	Country of Origin	Host Rotary Club
	Ana Paula	Brazil	Sharon
	Mariana	Venezuela	Sharon
	Carol	Paraguay	Slippery Rock
	Rita	Argentina	Prospect
	Ana	Ecuador	Oil City
	Nicky	Germany	Bradford
	Marie	France	Clarion
	Alex	Mexico	New Castle
	Nadia	Indonesia	Grove City
	Ana	Croatia	Presque Isle
	Guery	Bolivia	Greenville
	Vini	Brazil	Erie
	Rejanne	The Netherlands	Kearsarge
	Fumi	Japan	Chicora
2006-07	Joe Chiu	Taiwan	Erie
	Roberto Luna Pozo	Chile	Presque Isle
	Erwin Menaco	Bolivia	Grove City
	Bianca Menezes	Brazil	Bradford
	Agata Nowaczynska	Poland	Port Allegany
	Louise Regaudie	France	Grove City
	Rossana Rojas Marron	Venezuela	Sharon
	Doch Toy	Turkey	Hermitage
	Tiffany Villette	France	Clarion

Youth Exchange: Outbound Students			
Year	Exchange student	Sponsor Rotary Club	Host Country
1965	4 students		
1966	Thaddeus M. Yonika, Jr.	West Middlesex	South Africa
1966-67	Deborah Frazier	Sharon	Sweden
	Joyce R. Rockhill	Greenville	Sweden
	Larilyn J. Andre	Chicora	Sweden
	Judith Hazlett	Greenville	Sweden
	Margaret Savoldi	Sharon/West Middlesex	The Netherlands
	Julie Dunlap	Sharon	Sweden
	Harold David Hogue	Sharon	Sweden
	Diane E. Sheakley	Foxburg?	Sweden
	Francis J. Barraclough	Foxburg?	Sweden

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Year	Exchange student	Sponsor Rotary Club	Host Country
1967	Vicki Hambling Glenda Robertson Irene Vernon Barry Corbett Juan Carlos Monquat	Oil City Oil City Oil City Oil City Oil City	Australia Australia Australia New Zealand Argentina
1968-69	Kathy Luketic Linda Schrieberg Marilyn Ritgert Lee Bowersox Christine Amsler Toni Wickwire Saralyn Schaffner Henry Osen Deborah Loesch Ann Murray Janet Yackenhut Amelia Bromley Mary Moore Deborah Miller Angela Malovich Ruth Noel Eleanor McNees Deborah Carlson Linda Jandreau Bonnie Kriebel Peter Webster Karen Woessner Sally Walker Sandra Bates	Bessemer Butler Chicora Clarion Clarion Corry Dubois Erie Erie Erie Greenville Greenville Greenville Greenville Hickory Kittanning Kittanning Oil City Oil City Parker Port Allegany Portersville Sharon Slippery Rock	
1969-70	19 students		
1970	20 students		
1974	27 students		
1975-76	27 students		
1981-82	Mary Alice Beckman Gerald L. Brown Cindy Ann Budd Blanche Suzanne Crispell Mark Andrew Demmler Mary Patricia Dowling Bonnie Jones Eaton Amy Sue Ecklund	Erie Zelienople Port Allegany Greenville Greenville Sharon Grove City Sharon	Germany Brazil Chile Mexico Brazil Mexico Sweden Sweden

Youth Exchange: Outbound Students			
Year	Exchange student	Sponsor Rotary Club	Host Country
	Anne Catherine Henry Lisa Joan Kozar Lisa Marie Krebs David Norbert Love Lisa Don Passarelli Tina Sue Marie Rugula Vickie Ann Sass Christopher Patrick Savage Tamara Joy Schall Carol Diane Schulze Randall James Shorts Kimberly Ann Skarupski Christopher Andrew Starr Randall Craig Stom Brenda Sue Wilcox Robert Alan Williams	Punxsutawney Erie Sharon Clarion Erie Meadville Sharon Prospect Grove City East Brady Titusville Erie Punxsutawney Clarion Mercer Meadville	Australia Brazil Sweden Ecuador Sweden Philippines Japan Mexico Bolivia Bolivia Mexico Philippines Indonesia Sweden Sweden Sweden
1983-84			Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Sweden, Thailand, Venezuela
1985-86	Linda Breter Veronica Dorsch Jennifer Horan Jim Kramer Patty Petrini Richard Shenkan Kevin Thomas Sheri Towne Dawn Troutman	Wesleyville Zelienople Erie Mercer Sharon New Castle Sharon New Castle New Castle	Brazil West Germany Ecuador Belgium Sweden Japan Lesotho France Mexico
1986-87	19 students including Barbara Almino Karina Blose Nora Dowling Arley Lewis Joe Sample	Punxsutawney Punxsutawney Hermitage Punxsutawney Grove City	Sweden France Mexico Germany Thailand also Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Argentina
1988-89	Thomas Gaither Edward Shenkan Gretchen Hill	Slippery Rock New Castle Slippery Rock	Brazil France Australia

Youth Exchange: Outbound Students			
Year	Exchange student	Sponsor Rotary Club	Host Country
	Ross Headrick Tracy Meshanko Dayna Litz Patrick Hubenthal Anne Marie Cratty Erie Aufdencamp Mary Quast Annese Varner Gwen Rackham Crystel Cunningham Sara Moss Scott Simmons Erie Dill Charlottee Anderson JoAnn Lee Jennifer Schwab Cara Pelinsky	Grove City Chicora Zelienople New Castle Kittanning Slippery Rock Slippery Rock Clarion Slippery Rock Bessemer Bradford Presque Isle Punxsutawney Punxsutawney Meadville Presque Isle Presque Isle	Thailand Spain Germany Germany South Africa Argentina Ecuador Mexico Germany France Japan Germany Bolivia Mexico Sweden Belgium Germany
1989-90	Mauri Aven Kitter Bishot Emma Carlson William Clements Heather Dugan Jerry Dushaw David Fischer Amanda Jamison Cynthia Losco Suzii Mapes Blaine Perdue Jennifer Slocum Stephanie Stimpson Jonathan Truchan Heather Volz	New Castle Sharon Mount Jewett Slippery Rock New Castle Derrick City Grove City Slippery Rock Franklin Grove City Prospect Bradford Meadville Mercer Evans City	Spain West Germany Switzerland Venezuela Sweden West Germany Brazil South Africa Finland Indonesia West Germany Brazil Peru Belgium West Germany
1991-92	Laurie Curry	Meadville	Yugoslavia
1993-94	14 students, including Kristen Brinker Ben Dorsch Matt Fogarty Ada Hogan Sara Kennedy Jordan McMullin Emily Weber		Finland Germany Turkey Belgium Sweden Japan Germany

Youth Exchange: Outbound Students			
Year	Exchange student	Sponsor Rotary Club	Host Country
1994-95	James Campbell Nicholas Chapman Tracy Davis Christopher Doss Lacey Esterly Robert Fagley Kelly Palma Sara Shenken Leigh Sholler David Thomas Erin Tucker Ryan Wakefield Mark Wilson	(Pulaski) Smethport Port Allegany Grove City Meadville Butler Oil City New Castle New Castle Meadville Oil City Slippery Rock Erie	Denmark Venezuela Equador Brazil France Belgium Japan Chile Japan Thailand France Germany Switzerland
1995-96			
1996-97			
1997-98			
1998-99	Ross Thompson William Fleske Lila Johnson Rebecca Snyder Jonathan Brooks Matt Austin Adam Whren Marissa Farrone Thomas Cessna Jenny Surgenor Tracy Raisley Anna Sabella	Slippery Rock Slippery Rock Slippery Rock Warren Bradford Presque Isle Presque Isle Grove City Grove City Portersville/Prospect Portersville/Prospect Sharon	Bolivia Germany Chile Brazil Philippines Chile Croatia France Venezuela Germany Germany Argentina
1999-2000			
2000-01	Amanda Leamy	Grove City	Argentina
2001-02	Carrol R. Lacey	Grove City	Argentina
2006-07	Kristan Hearst Sonja Jones Elizabeth Kruck Sam Messina Bianca Silva Allan Smith Meredith Smith Allison Wilshire	Clarion Grove City Grove City Sharon Grove City Grove City New Wilmington Clarion	Bolivia Argentina Dominican Republic Bolivia Chile Germany France Finland

Youth Exchange: Participation in ESSEX	
Date	Event
1973	Hosted a summer multi-district youth exchange meeting in Sharon with 13 other districts represented
July 1980	Hosted the Semi-Annual Multi-District Youth Exchange Program meeting in Sharon
July 1991	Hosted the Summer ESSEX Conference in Erie

Youth Exchange: Bert Merriott Fund

According to the May 2, 1985, District 7280 Advisory Board meeting minutes, “The Bert Merriott Fund was established a number of years ago [before 1975] as an emergency fund for Youth Exchange. It was named in honor of the PDG from Meadville and has been managed by three named Trustees from the Meadville Club.” An example of using this fund is when \$500 was given to the New Castle club in 1983 to help cover the unexpected expenses of inbound student Russell Cletta when he wanted to return to Sweden for his father’s funeral. At the suggestion of PDG Chuck Waltenbaugh, the fund (over \$2500) was turned over to the District in 1986. The monies were to be managed by the district custodians, but kept separate from other district funds.