**HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR YOUTH EXCHANGE INTERVIEW:**

**This is an important interview**.  Arrive on time and dress accordingly.  The interview process will last for approximately 1 1/2 hours.  There will be several separate interview stations, each consisting of 2-4 Rotarians, former Outbound parents and former Outbound students.  You will rotate from station to station and the interviewers will take turns asking a variety of questions.

At one station you will be asked some questions about Rotary.  We want to know that you have a general understanding of Rotary’s purpose and ideals.  Some helpful websites are [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and [www.rotary6080.org](http://www.rotary6080.org),

At one station you will be asked to give a 2 – 3-minute speech on a topic of your choice to the interviewers. You may use notes but reading your speech will count against you.

You will be given a test covering basic United States government, civics and geographical questions. There will be questions pertaining to Missouri’s government and economy. An acceptable score on the test will be an important factor in selection of students to participate in exchange.

As you rotate between stations during your interview, your parents will have the opportunity to talk to former Outbound parents and students.  In addition, our District Youth Exchange Chairman will meet with your parents individually for an interview and to answer any outstanding questions and to follow up on the questionnaire that they have submitted.

Applicants will be selected based on general appearance, ambition, enthusiasm, general knowledge, conversational ability, poise, flexibility, academics, recommendations and the quality of the long-term application.  We are looking for outgoing students who, in our best judgment, have the characteristics to adapt to new (and challenging) situations, the willingness to make the necessary effort to learn a new language and the personal traits to represent the U.S. and Rotary well.

**PLEASE NOTE. The District reserves the right to CANCEL your exchange if through the orientation process and following months the student does not demonstrate the above listed characters, lack of willingness to learn the new language in time lines set out for the student by the OB coordinator or displays unexpected behaviors thought to be of unsuitable for an exchange student**.

**WHAT’S NEXT – AFTER THE INTERVIEW?**

Within a week you will be notified if you have been selected as an Outbound CANDIDATE.  You MAY also be advised of your POSSIBLE country assignment.  (Country assignments cannot be guaranteed until an exchange agreement has been finalized with the hosting county.)  Although we try to assign students to one of their “preferred” countries, this does not always happen.  We hope that all students will be flexible and willing to accept wherever they are assigned, as any exchange will be a life-changing experience.  Should you decide to turn down your tentatively assigned country, you may – or may not – be offered another option.

Rotary Youth Exchange is based on a one-for-one exchange, meaning we must accept a reciprocal Inbound student for every Outbound student we send. The families of our Outbound students are our best resource for finding potential host families and we expect them to help us find host families for our Inbound students in the community. For that reason, we expect you to provide the names and contact information for 3 families in the community that would be willing to host a reciprocal student when you are on exchange.  This MAY make the difference in whether or not your sponsoring club is willing to commit to hosting your reciprocal student.

If we have not received a commitment from your sponsoring Rotary Club to host a reciprocal inbound student next year, you may be selected as an “alternate”, which means that you will be placed on a waiting list until we have confirmed inbound hosting agreements.

Or, in the event that one of the other selected candidates withdraws from the exchange you may be offered that position. (Withdrawals happen with some regularity, so don’t give up if you are on the waiting list). After a Rotary club has agreed to sponsor you and a commitment has been made to host the reciprocal Inbound student, we will confirm arrangements with the hosting country, and you will be notified of a firm commitment.

***NOTE:*** All students accepted into the program are considered ***“conditional”*** until they have completed the ENTIRE orientation process.