



**Information for Students and  
Parents  
Ohio-Erie Multidistrict  
Rotary International  
Summer Family-to-Family  
Exchange  
2011**



**\*Country Preference Form (included)**

## **Overview**

Rotary International has sponsored youth exchange programs for more than 30 years with the goal of building international goodwill and understanding. Through the Short Term Program (STEP), two students spend about eight weeks together experiencing each other's family, country, and culture (four weeks with your host family abroad and four weeks in your home).

Exchanges generally occur from late June through late August. Some southern hemisphere countries have split-season exchanges, with American students traveling in July/August and your foreign guest visiting in December/January. You will receive information about your host sister/brother by late April and may begin to correspond at that time. We attempt to match students and families with similar ages and interests.

Students should first contact your local Rotary Club to begin the application and interview process. Each club belongs to a local Rotary District. The Ohio-Erie Multidistrict consists of twelve districts in Ontario, Canada and part of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Ohio-Erie works with Rotarians abroad to arrange summer matches. Opportunities may exist to host an inbound exchange without sending a student abroad – please contact your local Rotary Club if interested.

## **Qualifications**

The Ohio-Erie STEP holds its participants to high standards. Students are interviewed by their local Rotary Club and participate in a district-wide orientation program. Host families are also interviewed and must agree to a background check. Flexibility is a very important factor for students and families involved in STEP.

The student must meet the following requirements to participate in the STEP program:

1. You must be in good health.
2. You must be no less than 15 and no more than 18 years old at departure time.
3. Your parents will host a student for four weeks during the summer (or December/January if going to southern hemisphere country). You and your parents are expected to arrange activities for the visiting student. Hosting costs are your responsibility.
4. During your hosting period, you are expected not to take a summer job or become involved in other activities if they interfere with your host obligations.
5. Students/families pay the total program costs which includes a \$395 administration fee, round trip airfare, and pocket money. The administrative fee includes a mandatory supplemental medical insurance policy.
6. You must have read the program rules and you and your parents must be willing to strictly abide by them.

We have found that **students with many of the following traits may be good candidates** for the summer exchange program:

- Demonstrated interest in things international, through language classes, pen pals, cultural studies, foreign travel, and/or hosting inbound students.
- Mutual desire of parents and the student to participate in an exchange.
- Ease of making new friends with both adults and students.
- Politeness, pleasantness, and a confident smile.
- Flexibility to adapt to new and changing environments.
- Comfortable traveling away from home for 4 weeks or more.
- Participation in some monthly Rotary meetings held for inbound exchange students.
- Student overall grade point of 3.0 or above (not mandatory, but a good sign of dedication and discipline).
- Ability to make presentations to sponsoring Rotary Clubs here and abroad.
- A sense of humor and a positive and enthusiastic outlook.
- A firm commitment to the STEP program with minimal time and work conflicts.
- A student's work schedule should not interfere with entertaining your host brother or sister.

## **Rules for Participants – Parents and Students**

1. Willingly accept the advice and supervision of the Rotary chairperson(s) and of host parents abroad.
2. Accept the difference in the culture in your host country without vocal criticism
3. You are not permitted to drive a motor vehicle of any kind while in another country.
4. Hard liquors are not permitted in this program. In many host homes, wine and light beers are served with meals. This is permissible provided your parents approve. Any misconduct while under the influence of alcohol is sufficient cause to be sent home at the student's expense.
5. The use of illegal drugs, including "pot" is absolutely forbidden and infringement of this rule will cause you to be sent home at the student's expense.
6. Hosting parents should take their guest to a Rotary meeting shortly after your foreign student arrives.
7. Independent travel without the host family is not permitted while abroad.
8. Arrange for day-time and evening activities for your foreign guest. Loneliness and inactivity can breed dissatisfaction.
9. All flights must be booked through the Ohio-Erie appointed travel agency. Airline tickets must be paid for in full prior to departure.

## **General Application Information**

1. Complete the "Application for a Rotary Youth Exchange Short Term Program" and obtain a letter of recommendation from a non-family member. Applications should be **typed** or printed clearly. Blank applications may be found on the Ohio-Erie website at: <http://www.ohioerie.org>
2. The application obtained via the web can be filled out on your home computer using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. Attach clear photos to each application where indicated (digital photos or hard-copy photos). Two completed applications are required with original signatures in blue ink on both copies.
3. The last page of this document has the "Country Preference" form, which must be submitted with your application.
4. A letter of recommendation must be submitted with your applications. This letter must be from someone other than a family member, such as a teacher, religious leader, or community leader.
5. The administration fee of \$395 must accompany your application – make checks payable to your District.

6. The application, check, and letter of recommendation must be submitted to your local sponsoring Rotary Club President or Youth Exchange Officer. He or she will interview you in your home prior to signing your application and forwarding it to your local Rotary District. The District STEP coordinator may also contact you and then forward your application to the Ohio-Erie STEP Chair to arrange your exchange.
7. **The Student must be in possession of a valid passport.** Application and instructions can be provided by the Rotary appointed travel agency or a Post Office. Passports take time to get processed, so please do not wait until the last minute to apply. Students traveling to Brazil and India will need a visa at an additional cost. Our travel agent will assist you in obtaining the visa.
8. Applications with fees must be received by your sponsoring Rotary Club no later than **February 16, 2011**. Applications will not be processed until the administrative fee has been received. After February 16, 2011, your application will only be considered if there is an exchange available and you are willing to go to any country.
9. If your application is unacceptable, the entire administrative fee will be returned to you. If you withdraw from the program prior to April 1, 2011, the portion of the administrative fee attributable to medical insurance will be refunded. After April 1, 2011, no refund will be given unless the applicant cannot be placed, in which case, the entire fee will be refunded. Once a student has been matched, no refund will be made.

**Application and Administrative Fee Should Be Sent To:**

**How To Contact Ohio-Erie STEP:**

Monte W. Zinn  
Ohio-Erie STEP  
1184 E. Home Rd.  
Suite R  
Springfield, OH 45503-2726 USA  
937-629-9275  
Fax: 937-629-9278  
Email: [oestep@ohioerie.org](mailto:oestep@ohioerie.org)  
Or Office Email: [zinnauto@iapdatacom.net](mailto:zinnauto@iapdatacom.net)

**STEP (Short Term Exchange Program) Country Preference Form**  
**(This page must be included with our STEP Application.)**

**Countries for 2011 Summer Exchange (21)**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Preference</u>	<u>Est. Air Fare</u>
Argentina *	_____	\$1,200
Austria	_____	\$1,600
Australia *	_____	\$2,100
Belgium	_____	\$1,300
Brazil	_____	\$1,300
Colombia	_____	\$1,200
Ecuador	_____	\$1,100
Finland	_____	\$1,300
France	_____	\$1,300
Germany **	_____	\$1,300
India	_____	\$1,800
Italy *	_____	\$1,600
Japan *	_____	\$1,700
Mexico *	_____	\$ 700
Netherlands	_____	\$1,300
South Africa	_____	\$2,100
Spain	_____	\$1,300
Switzerland	_____	\$1,300
Taiwan *	_____	\$1,500
Turkey	_____	\$1,600

Indicate above your five country preferences by numbering from 1 to 5 in the Preference column, with 1 being your first choice. Place a **Y** by any other country you would consider visiting and an **N** if you would not be willing to visit. Every effort will be made to place you in one of your top five choices.

The six countries with \* (Argentina, Australia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, and Taiwan) are limited opportunities. These six countries may not materialize at all and could be **late** in making matches, which will require more flexibility of time and dates.

Students who choose Germany \*\* will likely attend school for 2 or 3 weeks of their exchange.

**Please discuss this information with your parents and sign at the bottom.**

**As a part of your exchange, you will be provided with a polo shirt. Please indicate your shirt size (uni-sex):**

**S      M      L      XL      (circle one).**

After careful consideration of the available countries for Short Term Youth Exchange, I have indicated my five Country Preferences. I understand that I could be placed in any one of these five countries and **I am willing to go to any of them.** I also understand that **I may not get any of the ones selected above**, in which case Ohio-Erie and my District will work with me to find an alternative placement. My parents also agree to allow me to go to any one of these countries chosen above, and they understand that this form is not a guarantee of placement in my five Country Preferences in any way. They agree to work with Ohio-Erie and my Rotary District to find an acceptable alternative if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's or Guardian's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)



**Ohio-Erie Multi District  
Short Term Youth Exchange  
Program  
Air Travel Preference Form**



1. This is the information that the travel agent will use when issuing your ticket. Please make sure that your name below is the same as your name on your passport.
2. Write your preferred departure city and any alternate cities that you would be willing to fly out of if the cost was less in the appropriate boxes.
3. Check which parent will be handling the travel arrangements for you. Please make sure that their daytime phone number is correct.
4. We can't do airline reservations without this information.

Student's Name (as it appears on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parent's Phone</u>
Discuss Travel with: (Dad) _____	_____
(Only designate one)	
(Mom) _____	_____

**Travel Information**

**Preferred Departure City** 1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Departure City** 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ohio-Erie Multidistrict strongly recommends that you use our Rotary endorsed travel agent, It's Your World Travel – telephone: 800-950-6077 or 206-328-0616.**