

Dear Students:

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange program!!!

You were chosen because both your club and our district interview panel believe that YOU have the necessary personal qualities and maturity to benefit from this experience. We are confident that you are going to have the most CHALLENGING, MEANINGFUL, and FUN YEAR OF YOUR LIFE!!! And we are very excited for you!!!!

My name is **Stephanie Sherman** and I am the **District Youth Exchange Outbound Chairman**. Many Rotarians will be responsible for your progress, and I will be one of those helping you to prepare for your year abroad.

During the next 8 months you will be working primarily with three Rotarians as you prepare for your departure in August 2008. First, your sponsoring Rotary Club's Counselor....second, our district's Country Contact for your assigned country, and third, me, in my capacity as Youth Exchange Treasurer and Outbound Travel Coordinator.

**CLUB COUNSELOR:** The Rotary Club that is sponsoring your exchange has appointed a Counselor to familiarize you with Rotary in general, to answer your questions about Rotary Youth Exchange, to help you prepare your presentation and to introduce you to the members of "your" Rotary club. Hopefully, you have met your Club Counselor already.

**COUNTRY COORDINATOR:** A member of the district Youth Exchange committee will be assigned to assist you with specific questions about your exchange and about your assigned country. Your Country Coordinator is the liaison between our Rotary District and the Rotary District in your host country, and he or she is responsible for ensuring that your documents and other information are "in order" and that all information is transmitted to your host country promptly. He or she will serve as your primary contact with our district's Youth Exchange committee before your departure and during your year abroad.

**DISTRICT YE COMMITTEE TREASURER:** I am also our district **Treasurer** and **Outbound Travel Coordinator**. So I will help you with all financial arrangements, and will be responsible for booking your flights to and from your host country.

### **SO, WHAT'S NEXT????**

At this time we are finalizing agreements with the countries we hope to exchange with next year. We already have commitments from several, but we're waiting for confirmation from several others. (It may be several weeks before we receive these confirmations, as some of our exchange partners have not yet conducted their interviews and will not agree to exchanges until they have selected their Outbound Students.) After we have a firm guarantee from your targeted country, your application will be sent to that country, and our district's Country Contact will then give you more information about the process.

**MISSING DOCUMENTS?** If your long term application is missing ANY information, e.g. Immunization records, physical examinations, original transcripts, etc., please provide the missing documents to us IMMEDIATELY! **We will be unable to process your application until it is complete. SO, DO NOT DELAY!!!**

### **Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars now!**

**January 12 :** Basketball Game & overnight get-together in Columbia (still tentative date)

**April 5-6: Outbound Orientation at the Lake of the Ozarks (Attendance is Mandatory)**

**May 2-3-4:** Rotary District Conference in Springfield, MO (Attendance is Mandatory for at least part of weekend)  
Details about all of these events will be forthcoming via email. In addition, specific information about each event will be posted on our website as soon as it is available. Visit <http://rye6080.org> for a summary of each event.

**PASSPORTS: If you do not have your passport yet, PLEASE apply for it NOW.** (See instructions below.) **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please be aware that AT LEAST ONE of your parents should also have a passport in the event of an emergency that would require him/her to immediately depart for your host country. If you already have a passport, be sure that it expires NO SOONER than February 1, 2010, (6 months after your return), otherwise your visa WILL be delayed. If your current passport expires before this date, you will need to renew it before you can depart. Don't forget!

Download the passport application from the website below and take it along with two passport size photos and a CERTIFIED birth certificate to your **local Post Office, County Clerk's Office** or Passport Agency. It usually takes 4-6 weeks to receive your passport. Please be aware that most of our international partners require that a copy of your passport be included with your Rotary application. Passports are valid for 10 years.

**Passport Information:**

**IMPORTANT: Each Student and at least one Parent should have a passport!**

**Cost: \$ 97.00** (in 2007)

For Detailed Passport information, go to the State Dept web site: <http://www.travel.state.gov>

Next, click "Passports", then select "Get or Renew a passport"

**This site contains all of the information you will need to successfully apply for a passport.**

**NOTE:** You will need a certified copy of your birth certificate and some other form of identification, and you will also need to complete form DS-11 which is available for download at the website above.

As soon as you receive it, please mail 3 good color copies of your passport to the Rotary Youth Exchange Office in Jefferson City so that we can send these with your application to the overseas Rotary district. If you have a scanner, you can also scan the picture page of your passport and email it to us.

**APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE & OTHER COSTS:**

Each student is responsible for an initial application processing fee of \$250.00. Please send a check for \$250.00 to me: **Stephanie Sherman at 290 Lone Oak Point, Sunrise Beach, MO 65079**. This initial payment is due by January 15. Make checks payable to "D 6080 Rotary Youth Exchange".

Again, CONGRATULATIONS! As the process moves forward you will receive the necessary information from your Club Counselor, your Country Coordinator and from me. We are all looking forward to getting better acquainted with you during the next 8 months as we help you prepare for your great adventure!

**~ Stephanie**

Stephanie Sherman,  
Outbound Chairman  
Rotary Dist. 6080 Youth Exchange Program  
email: [treasurer@rye6080.org](mailto:treasurer@rye6080.org)

Rotary Youth Exchange Office  
1213 E Dunklin Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
1-800-RYE-6080 (Ext. 29)  
web: [www.rye6080.org](http://www.rye6080.org)

All documents missing from your long term application should be mailed to the District Youth Exchange Office in Jefferson City.

All payments should be mailed to the Sunrise Beach mailing address.