
Why run an Inbound Camp?

There are a few answers to that question.

It's a good place to start for districts without much of a Youth Exchange programme

The great advantage of running an international Inbound Camp is that it gives a district a controlled introduction to Youth Exchange and a chance to make a lot of international contacts all at once. Finding students to join the Camp is usually far from being a problem and as the task is tangible it should be relatively easy to build a team to run it. The hard work goes into planning the first one – and the second follows and then onwards. There is no problem about repetition – the students change every year so it is new to them, but of course you tweak what you thought did not work, and then there is the call from Rotarians in other parts of the district wanting to take part too. Gradually the expertise will grow, as will the awareness that your own students could themselves benefit from taking part in a international camp and suddenly the Youth Exchange programme takes off.

It's a good way for districts with Youth Exchange programmes already to 'give back' for the hospitality and wonderful experiences which their own students have had.

The Camps & Tours programme is not a one for one exchange as such but in mainland Europe in particular there are large numbers of Rotarians who work tirelessly to produce between them over one hundred Camps & Tours opportunities every year, to each of which we are invited to send one student (very occasionally two). In GB & Ireland we also provide similar events and reciprocate as best we can. So the act of districts giving back to each other produces the Exchange. The more contact that Rotarians and Clubs have with the students and with involvement in their own camps the more they see the benefits to be gained, to the overall advantage of the whole Youth Exchange programme. What is more, the team approach which is necessary to run a Camp dispels any misgivings that may have hung around the notation that the programme is too much of a burden to take on. As the team members become more comfortable with their own roles they are well placed to take on additional tasks and once they find that they enjoy it they are not considering anything to be too much trouble.

..and of course

All participants of all ages have such fun that they come back and back for more.

What is the purpose of Camps & Tours

The composition of Youth Exchange Camps is a group of students, consisting normally of no more than one student from each country - maybe two for camps of 15 or more – but with no student from the host country.

As with all Youth Exchange programmes the main aim is to bring young people together from different countries to foster international friendships and tolerance of other people's views. The different activities bring out independence, resilience and self awareness in the students while they learn not only about the country they are visiting but also to appreciate the cultural differences among all the other students.

Camps are themed – outdoor activities which may include sports, arts and crafts, cultural tourism, music, environment etc. The list is limited only by the imagination and interest of those organising the Camp and no two are alike. You will get a very comprehensive picture of the range and

variation of what is offered by visiting the Camps & Tours menu of the website and studying past and current invitations.

Camps in RIBI are held annually, others in alternate years. One or two are combined with a RYLA to give it an international flavour.

What does a would be Camps Organiser need to do?

This question is answered in two parts. Follow the references:

1. From blank page to Invitation:

For advice as to how to set about starting a Camp see [C\(I\)15: Planning for an Inbound Camp](#). As well as general advice you can download a template [C\(I\)15A: Checklist for Building an Inbound Camp](#). to help you work through the process and [C\(I\)15B: Completed Checklists from Past District Camps](#) so that you can see what others have done.

2. From Invitation to Departure Day.

See [C\(I\)5: Managing an Inbound Camp](#). This concerns your chosen students as they prepare to come on the Camp and once they have arrived, and also the adults associated with them.