

There are in excess of a hundred places each year for Outbound Camps & Tours which take place mostly in June/July/August. Although there are a few private arrangements between clubs and districts most of the camps invitations circulate between districts or multidistricts which are listed on the European Camp Coordinators' list, currently operated by Rotary Youth Exchange in Switzerland.

Camps vary as to dates, length, theme, and the number and age of students, within the age range 15 to 25. What they have in common is a group of international students, none of them from the host country, who arrive together and bond almost instantly. Normally one student is accepted per country, occasionally two, and the decision as to who will represent RIBI is made centrally by the Outbound Camps Coordinator. Students need to be adaptable, good at making friends and must enjoy being part of a crowd.

The language of the majority of the Camps is English - exceptions are specifically indicated on the invitation.

Students initially contact the website [www.youthexchange.org.uk](http://www.youthexchange.org.uk) and register their interest in a camp on the C&T drop down menu. Progressively we are finding that this is happening very much earlier each year and in ever greater numbers. The Camps Coordinator picks it up and it is cascaded to the DYEO and then the Club. Once accepted and with a completed application form the student is put on the mailing list and will receive invitations to the camps when they begin to come out. These arrive in a steady and random stream from December onwards, slowing down towards the end of March. Interested Rotarians may also apply to be on the mailing list but may not apply for places on behalf of students. Invitations are also placed on the [www.youthexchange.org.uk](http://www.youthexchange.org.uk) website.

### Early Bird Registration

In order to stimulate greater participation in districts and enable districts with small programmes to get a foothold and expand we have a quota system whereby up to two school age students (Early Birds) from each district may have priority choice of camp nominated by the DYEO from among those in the district whose application is fully processed by 31st DECEMBER annually. Invitations not taken up in this way will be filled by the 'First to Respond' system.

How DYEOs select an Early Bird is entirely up to them. They could just put forward the first two applicants whose application form is ready by the deadline. Otherwise it is perfectly valid to choose a student who is particularly deserving for some reason, from among the applicants – or maybe to go out and look for a student who fits that category, provided that the application form is ready by the closing date.

Detailed information is given in [C\(O\)6 – 'Securing a Place on an Outbound Camps & Tour \(Rotarian Information\).'](#) and DYEOs need to send this to clubs. This information is also on the website.

The process selects the student who will be put forward for a place on a camp provided that this student has successfully completed the application process.

Invitations will go up on the website and the public can see them but this is after they have been circulated on the mailing list. This often results in applications for camps from those who have not yet registered their interest. They must do this and be interviewed and accepted by a club before the Camps Coordinator will allocate to them a place on a camp. At this stage the DYEO and the

Club must move very quickly if the student is to succeed.

Despite the competition for places applicants who persist and are flexible, particularly about dates, usually do get to go on a Camp. However, urgency is key as there is a very small window in which to operate once a camp invitation has been received as it is not a foregone conclusion that a student from RIBI will have a place.

Having said that, there appear to be a significant number of vacancies close to the date of the camps as a result of students dropping out so there is always a chance for those who have otherwise missed out.

The website gives all the details of Camps & Tours invitations received in the past season. They will give an idea of what is offered but will not predict what is to come. Certainly some camps seem to take place year after year but a number of districts/clubs operate a three year cycle and then change to something else. Others, such as the Cremona Music Camp, are biennial.

As with all our exchange programmes a student who is actually placed on a Camp immediately becomes liable for a non-returnable administration fee of £25 to be paid to the RIBI Districts Youth Exchange Association. The Camps Coordinator will advise as to how payment should be made.