

Rotary Code of Policies 41.060 22 International Travel by Youth

No individual Rotarian, club, or district shall assist or cooperate in sending a young person abroad on an international travel activity unless careful plans are made in advance covering every aspect of the proposed trip, including approval from the district youth protection officer and district Youth Exchange chair. In districts without a youth protection officer, the district governor and the district Youth Exchange committee chair must approve the arrangements.

No club should provide an identification card, letter of introduction, request for assistance or other credential or document intended to identify or introduce a young person to a club or clubs in another country, unless complete mutual agreement has been reached in advance with respect to the hospitality or assistance to be provided by the host club.

No club is obliged to provide hospitality or assistance to any young person from another country, despite any documented or claimed sponsorship of a Rotary club, unless the host club has specifically agreed in advance to provide such hospitality or assistance. (June 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 242)

Travel Requests from Students already on Exchange in Europe:

We also have a substantial problem with Long Term students exchanging into mainland Europe who would like to spend a short time over here and asking if we can host them. They may have some connection with the country but this does not validate the request in any way.

Some have been told that if they can find a Rotarian to host them then this is OK. WRONG!

Exchange students are not allowed to travel out of their district without permission from the DYEO and certainly not out of the country without a Rotarian.

They all know this – it was one of the conditions which they and their parents sign up to before leaving home.

In many parts of England it is possible for students to cross in and out of different districts in the course of daily life and hosts often take their student visitors to see other parts of GB & Ireland. All parents of inbound students are made aware of this by being required to sign the form **CP8A: Permission to Travel within RIBI**, which is part of *The Preparation Pack for Inbound Students* for each programme (**S10A, L10A, C(I)10A**). It may also be [downloaded here](#).

Every adult with whom they come into contact for a substantial period of time has to be screened (*see CP5: Screening Adults for Youth Exchange*) and so it is out of the question for any of them to travel abroad for an arbitrary weekend and expect Rotarians to look after them. Being over 18 by this time cuts no ice. They are bound by the original agreement.

However persuasive or pleasant they sound students who make these requests need to be sent off with a flea in their ear. We tell them that we are not a tourist agency. We are busy volunteers running an exchange programme.

Unfortunately a well meaning welcome to one student will open the floodgates. We have been asked by other countries to put up a united front and routinely refuse to accept these students, to deter the rest. District Secretaries who receive such requests quickly recognise the situation and do not pass them to soft hearted clubs.