



Quick Facts for Host Families

The fascination and rewards of temporarily adopting a son or daughter is indeed a unique opportunity provided by local Rotary Clubs worldwide.

Sponsored and vetted by a Rotary Club overseas and hosted by your local Rotary Club and District, students come to your community and enroll in the public high school for a full year. During that time, they generally stay with three different families in the school district to give them a sense of the diversity of family life in the U.S. The average stay at each family is 3 to 4 months. Families need not be affiliated with Rotary to host a student.

Some families may have children close to the age of the student, some may have older or younger children, others may be childless or empty nesters. Some families may be more interested in sports, others in culture. The only requirement is a separate bed and desk for the student, an open mind and a big heart.

Students are treated as members of the family, not as guests. If your children are assigned chores, your Rotary student can also have family chores. It's the student's job to adapt to the family, not vice versa.

School lunches for a Rotary student should be handled the same as for your own children. If your children take brown-bag lunches, the Rotary student can do the same; if you give your children lunch money, you should do the same for your exchange student.

Host parents are not responsible for clothing or incidental expenses. Contact your club for special clothing requirements; for example, we can usually arrange the loan of a winter jacket for students from tropical countries. Otherwise, the students' natural parents are responsible for clothing. Students receive a monthly allowance of \$100 from the local Rotary Club for incidental costs.

Students have Rotary insurance to cover any medical costs that may be incurred during the year. Your student should carry the insurance ID card at all times. Contact Rotary if any serious medical issues arise.

As a host family, you may be entitled to a \$50 tax deduction for any month that the student stays with you. (See IRS Publication 526.)

Rotary District 7210 encompasses the Mid-Hudson Valley and generally hosts 7-8 students a year who get together for scheduled weekend events about six times a year. Transportation and costs for these events are covered by Rotary.

Your local Rotary Club also appoints a Youth Exchange Officer is always available as a resource for your family and your student.

Here's what one family had to say about their experience:

"It was a great learning experience for the entire family. Hosting an exchange student gives you a look in to another culture. It especially opened my kids' eyes as to how easy they have it here in America – and we know we now have 'family' in Belgium and we can't wait to visit them." ...Deb Breen, Host Family, Rhinebeck