

Tips for Finding Host Families and Outbound Applicants

- Have a current Inbound or Outbound Student? Require them to compile a list of kids and/or families they think would make good hosts for the following year(s).
- Encourage parents of Outbounds to host (though you cannot require them to do so).
- For the current year, what friendships has your Inbound Student established? Ask the Guidance Department if they'd recommend approaching the families about hosting. When you call you have the advantage of leading with the fact that the kids are already friends.
- Ask current and past year host families to suggest other families they'd recommend for the experience.
- Require each Rotary member to suggest one family.
- Aging club membership? Ask your members to consult their kids/nieces/nephews who live in the school district for recommendations.
- Consult the guidance counselors on any recommendations made and ask for their recommendations, as well.
- Consult language teachers for recommendations for Outbound applicants and Inbound hosts. Ask them to announce Outbound and hosting opportunities to their classes and language clubs.
- Work with your PTA to publicize the program.
- Post a flyer in appropriate places like the school, library, town hall, churches, etc. with the YEO name and phone/e-mail so any interested family can contact you for further info. (We can send you a PDF to print off your own flyers, as needed.)
- Mount a display with sign-up sheet at your Farmers Market and, if possible, have your Inbound, Outbound and Interact there to promote the young face of Rotary.
- Run an article in the local paper about the program, accompanied by a photo of a current student, if possible. (Limit personal info for privacy.)
- Do you have an Interact Club? Do presentations on the Outbound and Inbound programs and encourage their involvement as Outbound applicants or Inbound hosts, or both! No Interact? Try the National Honor Society, language clubs, etc.
- Invite one of District 7210's Rotex students (Outbound students who have returned from a year abroad) to speak at Interact or another school meeting.
- Make presentations to student clubs, like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- Ask the high school to make announcements about the program over the intercom, such as "Applications are now available for"
- Include information in school newsletters/mailings.
- Schedule a YEX PowerPoint presentation at a faculty meeting to familiarize your teachers with the program and encourage their support. (We're currently adapting our club-oriented PowerPoint presentation to focus on the benefits to the entire school community as well as individual students and families.)
- Solicit other ideas from club members, school personnel, community leaders, etc. for effective ways to promote the program in your school district.
- Contact local churches to recommend potential families in their congregations.
- Give presentations to other service clubs, like the Lions and Kiwanis, to promote Outbound opportunities for their children and to recruit host families.

Important Note: *When asking for recommendations, make it clear that you're just asking for suggestions of kids/families who would be good hosts. No one is making a commitment on behalf of the recommended families. Get as much info as possible, such as parents' names, kids' names, ages and grade levels, address and phone number. Surely everyone knows some nice families who would make good hosts. It's up to the YEO to call and say that the family has been suggested as a good potential host for an exchange student and to ask if you can discuss it further with them. It's flattering to know someone thinks so highly of you and your family that they'd recommend you to Rotary. Capitalize on that!*