

Applicants: What to Expect

Once your application has been submitted for the Rotary Short-Term Exchange Program, here is what you can expect to happen in the months ahead.

1. Your application is reviewed for completeness. If anything is missing, we will be back in touch to collect the missing details with ~ 1 week.
2. Your family's Host Family application is submitted to our district Rotary administrative office for background checks on all adults in the household. It frequently takes 2 weeks to receive the results of this step.
3. Match Process:
 - a. Once the background checks are cleared, a subset of your application material (core application and letters from student and parent) are shared with our Rotary colleague in the country of your first choice, and we begin working with them to identify a match. This could take 2 weeks to two months depending on a variety of factors.
 - b. We review the application of the proposed match, once received, to verify the candidate's age is similar to yours, and any special requirements are met (ex: cat-free home for someone with related allergies).
 - c. The match proposal is then shared with you and your parents for review. Both families need to agree to the match before any communication is started between the families.
 - d. Once both families agree to the match, then you begin corresponding directly to set dates and schedule flights.
4. Continue communication with your host family and building a positive relationship.
5. Begin learning about your destination – learning the language, current affairs, etc.
6. Finalize flights no later than April 30th. Insurance is purchased in May, and your exact dates abroad are necessary for us to purchase the insurance.
7. Attend the mandatory outbound orientation program. See the date and location on the website: rotary6250.org/STEP. Mark this date on your calendar now for yourself and at least one parent.

Contact any of the Rotary STEP Program Coordinators with questions or concerns throughout the process.

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