



District 9830 YEP

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS OF THE
OUTBOUND STUDENT**

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

The Parents of an Outbound Student are required to accept the following financial obligations:-

A total **fee for the Exchange** of \$4000.

This will cover the cost of the briefing days and weekend, uniform, airfares and other travel costs for the Student to and from the Host Country. Should the Student have to withdraw for any reason the fees are refundable on a sliding scale.

All Students are required by Rotary International to carry accidental death (or if you prefer, regular life) **insurance (minimum US\$10,000), plus medical and hospital coverage for the year away (minimum US\$500,000)**. You may be required to take out this coverage in the country of the exchange. A District 9830 Insurance Policy is available. The premium is low. The student must have in their possession the necessary coverage and claim documents, to provide proof of coverage to both the sponsor and host districts. Insurance will be discussed at the Briefing Weekends.

The parents are required to provide the student with **an emergency fund** that can only be drawn upon with the consent of the host club counsellor. The size of this fund varies from place to place according to local requirements, but will usually be in the range of A\$400 to A\$600 (figure on the higher amount when estimating expenses). This fund is for approved travel or other emergencies and must be replenished by their own parents as it is used. The balance of the fund will be released to the student not more than four weeks before they are to depart for home.

A monthly allowance will be paid by the host club to provide pocket money and to help cover incidentals. The amount varies, but is usually as recommended by the District Committee where the student is being hosted (Rotary International recommend US\$50). **All the clothing needs** of the student while abroad are the responsibility of their own parents. This **includes school uniforms** if required by the school the student attends.

OTHER PARENT OBLIGATIONS

Parents are required to make themselves available with their son or daughter for **club and district interviews and to attend the district briefing weekends**. **Parents must also sign the various agreements associated with the Rotary Rules and Guidelines and other application documents.**

PARENT PARTICIPATION

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your son or daughter will appreciate receiving newspapers from your community, as well as general periodicals, and magazines, or school news. After the student has read them they can pass them on to the host families and friends so that they will receive a better understanding of life in your hometown, and your district as well as Australia in general.

CORRESPONDENCE

Write regularly to your son or daughter - and this applies especially to father - but keep your letters cheerful. Students do have problems with homesickness and these are greatly accentuated each time a student receives a letter bearing sad tidings. It is strongly recommended that you establish fairly regular correspondence with each host family in turn. Many minor problems can be tactfully cleared up at this level. Please remember that it may take anything up to two weeks for mail to travel in either direction. Most people now use email.

When mailing funds or clothing allow adequate time for their delivery especially if they are required by a specific date. **TELEPHONE CALLS ARE DISCOURAGED.** Not only are they costly but they can often be unsettling to both parties. If they are to be made then they should be limited to special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, or Christmas.

Some parents do contact their children daily. This does not help them when they are settling in to the country and having inevitable problems of homesickness. Be supportive but allow your child to overcome their own difficulties – they will learn more about themselves.

PARENTS VISITING STUDENT

Parents travelling abroad to visit their son or daughter on exchange is not recommended. In certain overseas Rotary Districts it is strongly discouraged. It can be unsettling for the student and cause antagonism with host parents and the host club. If visiting is contemplated advice should be sought from the host club.

Parents should defer any visit until well into the second half of the exchange period but no later than November. This is the time when the student is usually well adjusted, and the parents have the opportunity to meet most of the people who have played a role in the life of the student during the year away.

However, it should be noted that Rotary is not under any obligation to provide the parents with accommodation.

The student may only be allowed a limited number of days away from school so they may not necessarily be permitted to accompany the parents on a tour or other travel.

RE-ADJUSTMENT PERIOD

Finally, a special note about the adjustment period required after the student returns home. The month after your child, who has now become independent and more mature, returns home can be a most trying time for everyone. Each student will have experienced several years of normal growing up condensed into one year. The parents may still think students are the same as when they left home. Tremendous horizons have been opened up for the student during the year abroad and students could find it difficult to adjust when they "return to earth". A lot of patience and understanding is required by parents in this difficult adjustment period. The ultimate rewards for all concerned are great!
