

Sample Press Release

For Immediate Release *(send, e-mail or fax to local media from Sept 15-Oct 1)*

Contact: (Rotarian's name, phone and e-mail)

Rotary Youth Exchange Informational Meeting Scheduled

The *(name)* Rotary Club will host an information meeting about Rotary Youth Exchange *on (day, month, date)* at *(location)* beginning at *(time)*.

High school students, 15-18 years old, who are interested in participating the Rotary-sponsored youth exchange program, and their parents are encouraged to attend. Rotarians will explain the two different types of exchanges, outline the rules for the exchange program and answer questions.

Preliminary application forms for the 2006-07 Rotary Youth Exchange program must be completed and submitted to *(Rotary President or Rotary Member's Name)* of the *(name)* Rotary Club by November 1.

One type of exchange is a long-term exchange, in which students live for a year in their host country and attend high school. The other is a short-term exchange in which students live in a foreign country from a few weeks to a few months. Both types of exchanges are one for one exchanges. Therefore, for each student going abroad, Rotary District 5630 will host an exchange student in return.

Youth Exchange provides students with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures, thus increasing international understanding.

Melanie Chesley of the Arnold Rotary Club, chairs the District Committee for Youth Exchange in District 5630. She said, "Rotary has the premiere exchange program for students who want to increase their communication skills, gain confidence, meet new friends, and experience a different culture. In 40 consecutive years, the District 5630 program has sent and received nearly 1,000 students."

Students participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange program should be academically above average and articulate. They should demonstrate leadership in their schools and communities. They should also be flexible, willing to try new things and act as cultural ambassadors. Students participating in the program must agree to abide by the laws of their host country and rules of the host club and families. All interested students are welcome to apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

For more information, contact a Rotary Club member *(include name, e-mail or phone number, if possible)* or visit District 5630's website: www.rotary5630.org or the Rotary International website www.rotary.org.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 167 countries. District 5630 has 35 Rotary Clubs in 31 communities with over 1400 members.

