

YOUTH EXCHANGE
2010-2011
GENERAL INFORMATION
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[*\(Printer friendly\)*](#)

What are the Objectives of the Youth Exchange?

Unlike other exchange programs, the Lions International youth Exchange program is not conducted for the purpose of tourism, education or employment. Instead, it is a unique cultural learning opportunity.

There are three main objectives to the Youth Exchange Program:

1. To bring people into contact with youth and adults of other countries.
2. To share family and community life of another culture.
3. To promote international understanding and good will throughout the world of Lionism.

These Objectives fulfill the first Object of Lions:

TO CREATE AND FOSTER A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

HOW DID YOUTH EXCHANGE GET STARTED?

Every year since 1961, young people have participated in the Lions International Youth Exchange Program. Lions clubs would sponsor and host young adults between the ages

Of 15-21. Since then over 5000 young people have traveled to other countries to live with host families. For many young people, participation in the Lions Youth Exchange Program is a life-changing experience and a cultural milestone.

The first International Camp was organized, supervised and financed by the Lions of Sweden in 1974 and Since that first Camp, Lions clubs all over the world have continued to invite young people to their countries to attend in the Lions Youth Exchange Program as a means of Fostering International Understanding

More information can be found on the Lions International Website at www.lionsclubs.org

[Host Family Application Form](#)

[How to be a host Family \(from Lions International Web Site\)](#)

2008 Youth Exchange Video

FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) About Hosting**How long is the hosting time?**

The Youth Exchange program in District A-1 is held during the month of July but sometimes goes in to August depending on the year. There are two scheduled hosting times, both 10 days in length.

Do I require a police check?

YES, it is the normal procedure now for anyone that is involved with Youth. A Police check only stated that you have no criminal record. Each member of the house who is 18 years and older is required to obtain one. Once a police check has been obtained a copy is to be sent to the district YE Chair

What types of sleeping arrangements are to be expected?

Ideally it would be nice if they could have there own room or if you had a bedroom with two beds, if you are hosting two youths, however sometimes due to the lack of host families other arrangement have to be made.

Do they speak English?

Yes, They are to have an understanding to the English Language. They take it in school.

Can we make group plans?

Certainly! Some Host families in the smaller communities get together and have barbecues. Sometimes, if one family is planning a trip, they will contact the other families and offer to take your student along, giving you a break. This is great for the youths, because they get to see other youths from the other countries.

How do we know where to take them?

I will give you a schedule of what is planned for the week at camp. Our highlights include Niagara Falls and Canada's Wonderland. You can inquire with your students if they are interested in Museums of art galleries, or just scenery in general. If you have bikes available the students like to take a ride and tour around and investigate themselves.

What are the ranges of the students?

The students range in age from 16-22

Do they have their own spending money?

Yes, they have been instructed to bring about \$ 75 US (value) with them for each week here. Most of them have more or are very frugal and make it last.

If we do take them places, are we expected to pay for them (restaurants, theme parks, etc.)?

Yes, that is part of your responsibility, just as taking your own children to such places. Being a host family is like adopting a child for 10 days.

Do they need special diets?

Sometimes they do. We usually know this ahead of time and sometimes it is not known until they arrive. In the past we have had a couple of vegetarians. And some that can't eat beef or pork due to religious restrictions. However, as we do not encourage catering to your student, we do however encourage making them feel comfortable during mealtime.

Do we get to pick who we want to stay with us?

Yes, however first come first served. We make every effort to suit the student with your family. If student applications are received early and the host family application are returned to me by the deadline of March 1st then the process of picking your student can be done in plenty of time for correspondence to begin between you and your student. I will make the applications available at the convention.

How many host families are needed?

The ratio is 2 host families for each student application, however some families request more than one student and will host for both hosting sessions. If you would like to host for both sessions we recommend that you change students so that others can enjoy your hospitality.

Making phone calls from your home?

If your youth asks to call home, please, make it clear that they are to pay for the calls, I will be suggesting the youth get long distance cards to use while visiting here. I cannot stress enough that you communicate with your visitor regarding this matter as sometimes good intentions can be taken the wrong way.

I live out in the country, not in the city, does that matter?

No, as long as there is something for them to do, other than watch TV. If they are close enough to walk to town, that's okay too. Remember, this is a learning experience for them as well. For some it gives them a sample of what it is like to live out in the country.

I have pets, does this matter?

No, it is one of the questions on the host family questionnaire. It is also a question on the Youth application in case there is allergies or they do not like animals.

Would it be too lonely for the exchange students with no other young people around?

No, not usually, as long as someone is home. If there were no youth in the home already then we would encourage the host family to consider taking 2 students so as to keep one another company. This way they could go to a park or travel to the mall by bus. You can give them your phone number to take with them in case of emergency.

Can I stay in touch with the youth when they go to their next host family?

We do not encourage or recommend this. We are happy that you have enjoyed your time with the Youth, as I know they have done with you. Please let the next host family have the same experience. We do encourage each student and host families to correspond with one another after the Exchange is over. I have known Host families, students and Camp counselors who have kept in contact many years after.

For more FAQ's, [click](#) here.

If you have any other questions about being a Host Family, contact [IPDG Ev Spiering](#).

For more information, go to the Lions International Website at <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/our-work/youth-programs/youth-camp-and-exchange/index.php> and download the Host family guide.