

3.09 Inbound Student Travel

Rotary District 5080

Travel for Inbound Exchange Students is a privilege, not a right:

This is an educational and cultural exchange, **not a tourist exchange**. Students are expected to:

- learn the language and the culture of their host community
 - become an active member of their host family, their host school and their host city or town.
- To facilitate this, travel is not allowed when it interferes with the activities of the host school, the host family or the host Rotary Club.

The primary responsibility of Rotary is to keep students safe. It is important that the adults (host family, YEO and Chairperson) responsible for exchange students know where students are, who they are with and what activities they are involved in. All travel must go through an approval process. Host parents, Youth Exchange Officers (YEO) or Counselors can deny any travel requests if there is any concern about the safety and security of the student and/or the behavior and attitude of the student. If the student's YEO is not available to begin the permission process, the student can contact their Counselor directly.

In General:

- **Always** consult with your host club counselor before making any travel plans.
- You may travel with your host family, a Rotarian, or a family approved by Rotary.
- Coordinate with your host family and counselor if you want to join trips organized by your school, sports club, Rotary-related organizations or join Rotary activities.
- **Overnight travel without an adult is not permitted.**
- **No travel will be approved for other Rotary District's organized trips.**

Examples and Tips:

- If you are invited to take a vacation with your host family or a Rotarian, or with your school, do not assume it is free. Expect to pay some of your own expenses.
- **Unsupervised** overnight trips with other students **will not be allowed**.
- A travel authorization form with the travel detail, must be completed for overnight or out of State/Province travel.
- **Before** you accept any travel invitations, **contact** your Rotary counselor and **ask** if you **may** go.

Optional Tours:

There may be an opportunity to travel on a SCRYE approved tour (i.e. Belo tours) if it does not conflict with District 5080 Rotary trips, or host family plans. **For these optional SCRYE approved tours, you need advance approval from:**

- Your natural parents
- Your host club
- Your host family
- Your Inbound Coordinator
- District 5080 youth exchange Chair, who must sign the tour authorization form

Travel and School:

Students who are not doing well in school cannot miss school to travel. Students, who are doing well in school, may occasionally miss school to travel (**no more than 10 days**). All of their homework must be current.

Before their trip, students are to ask their teachers for homework that they will miss while traveling. They are expected to make arrangements with their teacher for getting their homework finished and for making up any tests or exams that they miss.

School and Other Youth Serving Groups Organized Trips:

Trips organized through school and other youth serving groups (scouts, etc) **may** be authorized. Only groups that have an established youth protection program and volunteer vetting will be approved. Students must follow the proper approval process.

Groups of Students Meeting or Traveling Together:

Other than the meetings/trips that are described below, **groups of 4 or more** students are **not** allowed to travel or to meet together without the direct supervision of responsible adults involved with the **Youth Exchange Program (or approval of District Chair)** **Travel That Is**

Approved, Authorized, and Organized by District 5080:

There are 5 required district trips/meetings for Inbound Students:

1. **The Inbound Orientation** – first weekend in September after school has started.
2. **The Halloween Weekend** – held at the end of October (Location and Dates to be announced)
3. **The Winter Weekend** – Usually the beginning of February (Dates and location to be announced)
4. **The Outbound Orientation weekend**- held in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho in early May – Inbounds and future outbounds with their parents get together to discuss outbound exchange.
5. **District 5080 Annual Conference** – usually held in **May** and alternates between the US and Canadian sides of the district.

Optional but highly recommended is a bus trip around District 5080 (5-6 days) - This District Tour usually follows the Outbound Orientation in May. Dates and itineraries vary each year.

Travel Rules for Students Hosted by District 5080

In all cases we need to know:

- Where you are going
- Who you are going with
- How you are getting there
- What the planned activities are for the day
- When you will leave and return
- That you have enough money for the activities that are planned
- That you have all necessary travel documents with you
- How you can be contacted in case of an emergency, and your emergency contacts.
- The names and phone numbers of the responsible adults who will be supervising you.

Examples of different travel scenarios:

1. Same Day Travel within District 5080 but not crossing the border

Same Day travel within your State or Province that begins and ends in your host town is approved by your host parents. Before they can make the decision to allow you to travel, the host family and the YEO need to have, in writing, the information noted above (communicate with YEO via email with the information needed).

Example - Student X is living in Nelson, BC and wants to visit/ student Y who lives 75 km away in Rossland, BC to go skiing/movie etc. They are taking a bus/or getting a ride with a Rotarian Z- send an email to YEO as long as host family approves of the same day travel.

2. Overnight Travel within District 5080 But Not Crossing the Border

All overnight travel must have a travel permission form submitted.

If you are traveling **without** your host family, this travel must be approved by your host parents as well as your YEO/counselor. The adult(s) you are traveling with must be a Rotary approved Volunteer.

Example - Student X who lives in Coeur d'Alene, ID has been invited to stay overnight with Student Y Host family in Sandpoint, ID to go to a football game/ movie/skiing. They are taking the bus or getting a ride. (**Travel request to be completed**).

If you are traveling **with** your host family and staying overnight **within** the District but not crossing the border, a **Travel Request must be completed** and sent to Yeo and District chair so they are aware (signatures of YEO and chair are not required).

3. All Overnight Travel or Day Trips Outside of District 5080 Boundaries

This travel will need the **final approval of the District Chair**. For the district chair to approve the travel request, they would like to receive the completed Travel Authorization form with the requested information **(7) days** (if possible) before the date of departure to give the request thoughtful consideration and have any questions answered.

- This travel must first be approved by your host parents and YEO.
- Your YEO or counselor needs to provide the travel plans (**Travel request to be completed**).
- The student must ensure they have this information:
 - The names and phone numbers of the responsible adults (Vetted) who will be supervising you.
 - How you can be contacted in case of an emergency, and that you have a list of emergency contacts.
 - That you have sufficient funds for the activities planned.
 - That you have the necessary travel documents with you.
 - Written permission (email acceptable) from the natural parents

The YEO will communicate with the host family and the student once District Chair approval for the trip has been received.

Example: Student X has been invited by a Rotarian to take them to Calgary, Alberta from Cranbrook BC for 3 days to see Calgary - Rotarian is vetted, Host family first signs travel form and sends it back to student to get the YEO / Counselor signature. The student or YEO then sends it to the Inbound Coordinator for approval. This form will be uploaded into the YEAH database by the Inbound Coordinator after the District Chair gives their approval.

Any travel outside Canada and the United States (ie Mexico) must have full written permission from your natural parents before any travel will be considered. This should be done first and sent to the YEO and District Chairperson.

If travel form is not completed when it's required and YEO or District Chair becomes aware of the unapproved travel, student will be issued a Yellow card (see Standards of Behavior form).

4. Unaccompanied Travel

Permission for you to travel to a destination by yourself will only be granted after confirmation that a responsible, vetted adult will meet you at the final destination.

Example: Student A's host parents have a second home in Vancouver and have invited student A to go there for Spring break. Host parents are in Vancouver already and will be meeting Student A when they arrive (**travel form required**). Students will be allowed to travel on direct flights only (no connections).

Students will not be allowed to travel to visit relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings) or friends who may be visiting in North America.

Example: You have an aunt or uncle who is visiting New York City. **You will not be able to join them.**

5. Travel on the Return Trip Home

You **will not** be allowed to travel with your natural parents during the last 7 days of your exchange **year or to return home with them**. All students are required to return home directly with no additional travel. Within 24 hours of your departure date your visa to the USA or Canada will be canceled. You must depart for home from an airport associated with and approved by District 5080.

Breaking this rule may have a negative impact on your ability or the district's ability to get visas in the future. You must leave the country on or before the day that your visa expires or by

July 15th, whichever comes first. If these rules are broken, you may be denied a visa to the US or Canada in the future. Failure to follow these rules may also make it harder for students from your country to be a Rotary Exchange student in the future.

In Summary:

Our primary concern is for the safety and security of all students. We take these travel rules very seriously. Host parents, YEOs and the District Chair can deny any travel requests if there is any concern about your safety and and/or your behavior and attitude. If you break these travel rules, we will send you home and terminate your exchange. You should **never buy an airplane ticket** or make other financial commitments for travel until the needed permissions have been given.