

Inbound Student Travel Policy

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, to become an active member of their host family, their host school, and their host city or town. 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), Counselors, Inbound Coordinator, or District Chair can deny any travel requests if there is any concern about the safety and security of the student or the behavior and attitude of the student. If the student's YEO is unavailable to begin the permission process, the student can contact their Counselor directly.

In General:

- **Always** consult with your host club YEO 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 another Rotary District-organized trip.**
- If you are invited to take a vacation with your host family, a Rotarian, or with your school, do not assume it is free. Expect to pay some of your expenses.
- Before you accept any travel invitations, contact your Rotary YEO and ask if you may go.

Optional Tours:

There may be an opportunity to travel on a SCRYE approved tour (ie. 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 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.

Students must ask their teachers, before their trip, for any homework they would miss while traveling. They are expected to make arrangements, with their teacher, for getting their homework finished, and to make up any tests or exams that they miss.

School and Church Group Organized Trips:

Trips organized through school and church groups may be authorized as long as the student follows 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 the District Chair)**

Travel That Is Approved, Authorized, and Organized by District 5080 are as follows:

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

1. **The Inbound Orientation** – held in September after school has started.
2. **The Halloween Weekend** – held end of October
3. **The Winter Weekend** – held end of January/early February
4. **The Outbound Orientation weekend**- held end of April/early May – Inbound and future outbounds with their parents get together to discuss outbound exchange.
5. **District 5080 Annual Conference** – usually held in **May** (4 days) 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 are the planned activities 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.

1) Same Day Travel within BC, AB, WA, ID, Montana and Oregon:

Same Day travel within BC, AB, WA, ID, Montana, and Oregon that begins and ends in your host town is approved by your host parents. Before they can decide to allow you to travel, the host

family and the YEO need to have, in writing the information noted above (communicate with YEO or Counselor via email with the information detailed). **The Inbound Coordinator and District Chair must be made aware of the travel plans if the student is crossing the USA-Canada border.**

Example #1 - 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 day travel.

Example #2 - Student X is living in Rossland, BC and is going on a shopping trip to Spokane, WA with their host family. Send an email to the YEO, Inbound Coordinator, and District Chair. (Because the student is crossing the USA-Canada Border)

2) Overnight travel within BC, WA, ID, AB, Montana and Oregon, with the host family, must have a travel permission form submitted

If you are traveling **with your host family**, complete the Travel authorization form including the signature of YEO. This travel needs the approval of the YEO only but the Inbound Coordinator and District Chair must be made aware of the travel taking place. **The student will send the travel form to the District Inbound Coordinator and District Chair so it may be uploaded.**

Example- Student X's host parents want to take them to Seattle for the weekend. Travel form to be completed by the student with the signature of YEO and sent to the Inbound Coordinator and District Chair so it may be uploaded.

3) Overnight Travel or Day Trips Outside of BC, AB, WA, ID, Montana or Oregon (Excluding Mexico)

This travel requires the approval of the YEO, the Inbound Coordinator, and the District Chair. The Travel Authorization form with the requested information must be received by the Inbound Coordinator and District chair at least **(7) days** (if possible) before the date of departure to give the request thoughtful consideration and have any questions answered.

4) All Overnight Travel- not with current host family:

This travel needs the **approval of the Inbound Coordinator and District Chair**. The Travel Authorization form with the requested information must be received by the Inbound Coordinator and District chair at least **(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 needs to provide the travel plans (**Travel form to be completed by student**). The student must ensure they have the following information:

- The names and phone numbers of the responsible adults (Vetted) who will be supervising them.
- How they can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- That you have sufficient funds for the activities planned.

- That you have the necessary travel documents with you

The Student will complete the travel form with YEO and host family signatures and will email it to the Inbound Coordinator and District Chair for approval.

Example: Student X has been invited by a YEO or Vetted Adult to take them to Seattle from Rossland B.C for 3 days to see Seattle (**crossing border**)- Host family first signs travel form acknowledging plan and student will get YEO to sign form and send the form to the Inbound Coordinator and District Chair for approval.

Any travel outside Canada and the United States (i.e. Mexico or Caribbean) must have full written permission from your natural parents before any travel will be considered. Permission from natural parents must be done first and sent to the YEO, Inbound Coordinator and District Chairperson prior to making further travel arrangements. This Travel can only be done with Vetted Adult (i.e. host family, YEO, Counselor etc.).

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

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. Only direct flights will be approved.

Example: Student A's host parents have a second home in Arizona and has invited student A to attend for Spring break. Host parents are in Arizona already and will be meeting Student A when they arrive at airport (**travel form required**) along with flight itinerary. Students will be allowed to travel on direct flights only (no connections)

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

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 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.

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 cancelled. 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 student in the future.