

LIONS OF MICHIGAN YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Karen Ates (810) 735-9039

1573 W Rolston Rd

Linden, MI 48451

Dear Lion and Non-Lion Families:

The following information is presented to Lion or Non-Lion families of Multiple Districts 10 and 11 (Michigan) to help make the Youth Exchange Program known to students and families of your community. Lions Youth Exchange is a FAMILY program.

Objectives of a youth exchange program are: (1) to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world. (2) To bring young people into contact with students and adults of other countries. (3) To share family life and community life of another culture. (4) To promote international understanding and goodwill through the World of Lionism.

The Youth Exchange Program was organized by Lions, but is not necessarily only for Lions families. Students from any local school, community college, church, 4-H club, foreign language club, or other youth groups may be included in YEP.

The selection of a student that you will send to represent your Lions Club, community and country is of paramount importance. Be sure you select young people you believe will make good "ambassadors" for you as a sponsor. It is equally important to select Host Families carefully to represent us.

We believe every opportunity should be extended to youths to expand their knowledge, their international understanding and their education. It's imperative that the people of the world come to know one another better, in order to arrive at a universal understanding and appreciation of the multitude of diverse cultures and ways of life that contribute to this world we all share. We believe that if we are to have better relations with our international neighbors, the task must be put in the hands of our young people. We do this with YEP.

The Lions of Michigan Youth Exchange Committee encourages every Lion, Lioness, and Leo Club to become involved in YEP.

DISTRICT YOUTH EXCHANGE CHAIRMAN:

When you accept the responsibility as Host or Sponsor, you must stay in touch with your District Chairman, who is there to advise you, answer your questions, and to aid you in any way necessary. It is your link to the exciting world of YEP.

This dedicated volunteer has been selected by the District Governor or President to serve the District and will be most happy to present the Youth Exchange story at Club, Zone or District meetings. Why not let your District Youth Exchange Chairman present a YEP program at one of your Club meetings.

STUDENTS WHO TRAVEL

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any student between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one may participate in the Youth Exchange Program, except for visits to France or Denmark, where participants must be seventeen. As English is spoken in all countries with whom we exchange, knowledge of the language of the country visited is helpful, but is not mandatory except in France. Students going there must have studied at least two years of the French language.

Students must be in good health, mentally and physically, without afflictions requiring close care and attention, but sight or hearing-impaired youths may be qualified to travel. Students must have social and educational levels adequate to live with families that have different customs and culture.

All students will leave between the middle of June and the middle of July, and normally stay about six weeks with Lions Families or in Lion-approved homes. In some cases, travelers may participate in a Youth Camp with other exchange student's part of the time. Depending on negotiations with these other countries, stays vary anywhere between four and eight weeks.

The Lions Youth Exchange Program is unique in that Lions Clubs at each end sponsors all our students. Sponsors select the candidates and assist with transportation, information and sometimes with financial aid. The Host Club and Youth Exchange Chairman are responsible for seeing that the travelers are met at the airport, and arrive at the homes of the Host Families. The Host Y E Chairman and Host Club Liaison are always close by to assist the student with questions and problems with language, travel or with family difficulties.

BEHAVIOR:

Driving of automobiles or other motorized vehicles is not allowed. International Youth Exchange rules forbid any use of alcohol and using illegal drugs will guarantee an early return home. At no time in the exchange is the student permitted to break and commence individual travel even to visit relatives.

HOW A STUDENT MAY APPLY:

- (1) Secure applications from the District Chairman or Club Secretary; Fill them out completely in triplicate originals.
- (2) Attach individual applicant and family photos to each of the applications (passport type or class pictures are fine), and give them to the Club Secretary for Processing.
- (3) You must include the non-refundable \$150.00 Application Fee with the completed forms. Also a \$250.00 Deposit for your airfare must be included. Total Check \$400.00. (Make checks payable to: Lions of Michigan YEP).

Since we're limited on the number of youths we can send to some countries, students should submit applications as early as possible. Applicants are selected on first come, first serve basis. No applications are accepted after February 1st. All the rest must be paid by February 1st.

HOST FAMILIES

HOW TO BECOME A HOST FAMILY:

- (1) Obtain a Host Application from your District YEP Chairman or Club Secretary and fill this out completely.
- (2) Have the Application processed by your Club President or Secretary and returned to the District Chairman.

GUIDELINES FOR THE HOST FAMILY:

The Lions of Michigan Youth Exchange Program is not tourism, but a serious effort to help a student share in the life of another culture. For this reason the Family must welcome a student into the home as a member of the family from the first moment. This family must also be willing to make allowance for some small differences in culture, habits, beliefs, and attitude of their visitor.

Normally students will have at least basic knowledge of the language of the host country. If there is a language barrier that cannot be solved, the District Chairman may help (usually all that is needed is a dictionary).

The purpose of the Youth Exchange Program is to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world. Our Host Families are in a unique position to make this goal a reality by sharing their homes and life with a visitor from another country for a few weeks. The Host Families need not be Lions members to participate.

PREPARING FOR THE STUDENT:

As soon as you have your visitor's name and address, you should begin correspondence by airmail. Tell your student about the home, family, children and their ages, interests, pets, etc. You might also tell the youngster the kind of weather we have, and type of clothing needed for our climate. Share any tentative sightseeing plans also.

It is also important for you to try to learn about the visitor's culture and language, and study a little about the country's history and government, major cities, etc. You may want to learn a few phrases in the student's own language, this way the youth will feel more welcome and at home.

We do recommend that you try to take your visitor on a few short trips in your area to give a better picture of Michigan and of America, but you aren't expected to drop everything and travel extensively during the visit here.

Students usually arrive between mid-June and mid-July.

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important that youths be exposed to others the same age during the exchange. If YOU have none at home, you still may become Hosts by sharing with other families who do. The important element is love of young people, and a wish to share your home in this way.

FINANCE:

The Host Family is not under any obligation to provide the youth with pocket money or to finance clothing, medical or telephone expenses. These must be borne by the travelers from funds provided by parents and themselves. The Host Family also is not under any obligation to take the youth away on trips, but of course it would add tremendously to the value of the exchange if they can do so without financial embarrassment to themselves. There are many short side excursions in Michigan, which cost little and show off our state very well. It is a personal choice.

WORKING WITH THE HOST CLUB:

The Family must be willing to cooperate with the Host club and District Youth Exchange Chairman at all phases of the exchange. This includes faithful adherence to all travel arrangements, participation at events organized by the Lions Club or District, and following schedules.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOST CLUB:

The Host Lions Club should invite the visiting student to share experiences and give talks about the student's country. It is also nice to include them in club projects so they know what the Lions Club does. As a Host Family, if the local Club doesn't make contact with you, take it upon yourself to initiate the necessary call to make the arrangements. Most of the students will bring pins and banners from home to exchange with the Host Lions Clubs.

FUNDING:

The Lions of Michigan Youth Exchange Program is self-funded and has no paid employees. The Application Fees {\$150.00 for students}, help pay for postage, overseas and domestic phone calls, cable-grams, fax messages, student's pins and banners, orientation or organization meetings, printing, and necessary supplies.

COUNTRIES AVAILABLE

We currently have active exchanges with the following countries; other countries may be available and inquiry is welcomed. Flights originate from Detroit, and to help keep program costs down, we use charters when available.

Australia	Austria	Belgium	Brazil	
Denmark	England	Estonia	Finland	France
Germany	Ireland	Italy	Japan	Turkey
Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway	Peru	
Switzerland	Sweden	South Africa	Scotland	
Wales				

Ask your YE Chairman about other possibilities.