



District 7010
Youth Exchange

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 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), Natural Parents and District Youth Exchange Chair 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 to start the process.

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. All of their homework must be current. Students are to ask their teachers, before their trip, for the homework that they would 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 Organized Trips:

Trips organized through school may be authorized provided the student follows all the proper approval process.

Other Rotary District (other than District 7010) Organized Trips:

No travel will be approved for other Rotary District's organized trips.

Groups of Students Meeting or Traveling Together:

Other than the meetings/trips that are described below, groups of 6 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

Travel That Is Approved, Authorized, and Organized by District 7010:

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

1. The Inbound Orientation – held in late August in Algonquin Park;
2. District 7010 Annual Conference – Usually held in September or October at various sites;
3. The Winter weekend held in February in Mattawa; and
4. The May Bon Voyage weekend held on Victoria Day weekend in Ottawa.

There are additional travel opportunities including yearend trips that will be evaluated on an individual basis.



Travel Rules for Students Hosted by District 7010

1) 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.

2) Same Day Travel within District 7010

Travel within District 7010 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 at 1).

3) Same Day Travel in Ontario

Same day travel in Ontario but outside of District 7010 must first be approved by your host family. Your YEO must also give permission. 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 at 1).

All overnight travel must have a travel permission form submitted.

4) Overnight Travel inside District 7010

If you are traveling without your host family this travel must be approved by your host parents and the YEO. If you are traveling with your host family you need to provide your YEO with contact information. 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 at 1).

5) Overnight Travel Outside of Ontario but inside Canada:

This travel must be approved by your host parents, YEO, natural parents and District YE Chair. The Permission To Travel Out of District form needs to be completed prior to your departure.

6) Overnight travel Outside of Canada:

This travel must be approved by your host parents, YEO, natural parents and District YE Chair. The Permission To Travel Out of District form needs to be completed prior to your departure.



Failure to obtain Approvals

In the event that you travel without the appropriate permissions as details above, District 7010 reserves the right to terminate you exchange immediately and you will return home as soon as arrangements can be made.

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.

Guidelines for Parents Visiting District 7010:

Visits from your parents and family members are permitted only with prior permission from your host club and the District Chair. Visits are only permitted during the last three months of your exchange. Visits by home country friends are strongly discouraged and will be allowed only in very special circumstances. Students are not permitted to return home during the exchange year, except in the case of a serious emergency.

Before your parents make any travel plans to visit you, or purchase any airplane tickets, their visit needs to be approved in writing (e-mail is permitted) by: the student, the host parents, the Club YEO and District Chair.

Failure to get PRE-APPROVAL may result in disappointment and have a financial penalty if tickets are non-refundable.

Visits by parents and family members should occur only during the last three months of your exchange. The visit must not interfere with your school time or other required Rotary events. Schools will only give permission for you to be absent if you are doing well in all of your classes and if you have had few previous absences.

If your parents plan to travel with you outside of District 7010, and this travel is approved IN ADVANCE, they must provide a detailed itinerary of all travel on a provided travel form.

If your Parents are coming at the end of your exchange year, please be conscious of the fact that your club and friends may plan a going away event. Your parent's trip should not interfere with these events. If your parents plan to travel with you at the end of your exchange, your rotary exchange will be deemed to have ended when your parents arrive in Canada and take custody of you. You MUST return to your home country before the expiration of your student visa. All return flight information needs to be provided to your YEO and District Chair at least 2 months prior to departure.

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.

**ALL OVERNIGHT TRAVEL MUST HAVE A TRAVEL REQUEST FORM
SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**