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Export date: Thu Mar 28 17:01:08 2024 / +0000 GMT

Rotary Club of Palgrave?s Weekly Rotary Minute

By Diether Weeren

For more than 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange.

More than 80 countries and 8,000-plus students each year participate in the program and truly become global citizens.

The participants learn a new way of living, experience different foods, study different subjects, enjoy a new culture and maybe even learn a new language. They are also an ambassador for their own home country ? teaching others they meet about their culture, country, ideas ? and they make lifelong friends in the process.

Exchanges last for a full academic year and students attend local high schools while living with local host families through the local Rotary clubs. Rotary Youth Exchange is open to youth who are 15 and a half to 18 years of age at time of departure.

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people ? regardless of nationality ? desire the same basic things: A safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for us and our children. Youth Exchange provides this opportunity and thus planting the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

Please visit www.rotaryclubofpalgrave.com for more information on the Youth Exchange Program and for more information on our Club and all the wonderful ways you could get involved.