

Rotary Youth Exchange Social Media Agreement

This document should be signed by the student and their parents/legal guardians during outbound and Inbound orientation.

Rotary International District 6460 — Youth Exchange Program

Digital Conduct and Social Media Agreement

Purpose: Social media is a powerful tool to share your exchange journey, but it can also hinder cultural immersion or create safety and compliance risks. As an ambassador of Rotary International, your online presence must reflect the highest standards of character, respect, and safety.

By signing this agreement, you agree to adhere to the following digital guidelines throughout your exchange:

1. Cultural Immersion & "The 6–8 Week Rule"

- **Limiting Home Contact:** To foster true cultural immersion and combat homesickness, I agree to strictly limit my social media interaction, messaging, and video calls with friends and family back home during the first 6-8 weeks of exchange, and on a weekly or monthly basis afterwards."
- **Host Language Integration:** I will make an effort to post updates and stories in my host country's language. I understand that changing my device's operating system to the host language is a highly recommended best practice.

2. Compliance with Program Rules (The 5Ds and 6Bs)

- **No Evidence of Violations:** I will not post, share, or be tagged in any content (photos, videos, captions, or comments) that depicts, references, or implies a violation of Rotary Youth Exchange rules. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Drinking alcohol or using illegal substances (**No Drinking**).
 - Operating motorized vehicles (**No Driving**).
 - Engaging in unauthorized or unapproved relationships or travel (**No Dating/Unapproved Travel**).
 - Publish, share, or engage with social media content that is racist, offensive, or culturally insensitive. *When in doubt, ask questions.*
- **Immediate Consequences:** I understand that as Student Ambassador, my digital presence must uphold the highest standards of global citizenship expected by our organization. Posting content that shows a violation of program rules—even if intended as a joke—is grounds for immediate review and potential termination of my exchange.

3. Privacy and Personal Safety

- **Location Security:** I will not post real-time locations, my exact daily schedule, school name, or host family's home address on public-facing social media profiles.
- **Respecting Others:** I will obtain explicit verbal or written permission from my host parents, host siblings, and peers before posting their photos or personal details online.

4. Accountability and Monitoring

- **Privacy Settings:** I will keep my personal social media accounts set to "Private" or utilize curated "Close Friends" lists for personal updates, allowing access to my local Rotarian Counselor or Youth Exchange Officer (YEO), if requested.
- **Reporting Protocol:** If I experience cyberbullying, online harassment, or digital safety concerns, I will immediately report it to my host parents, Rotarian Counselor, or YEO.

Student Affirmation: I have read, understood, and agree to abide by this Social Media Agreement. I understand that my digital footprint reflects on Rotary International and that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including being sent home.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Affirmation: I/We support the guidelines outlined above and will help reinforce the "6–8 week" limited contact recommendation to support our student's immersion and emotional well-being abroad.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____