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| **District 2660**  **Youth Exchange Information**  **For**  **Hosted Exchange Students and Parents**  ***Conditions – Rules – Expectations***  **2025-2026**  **District2660 Youth Exchange Committee**  **Osaka Japan**      **Rotary District 2660, Osaka Japan**  Located in Kansai area of Japan, D.2660 is northern part of Osaka Prefecture.  The population of Japan stands at 124500,000 with the population of Osaka Prefecture being 8,770,000.  Osaka is the third largest city in Japan and near to Kobe, Kyoto and Nara.  The climate consists of four very distinct seasons and the annual average temperature is 15℃.  However, the temperature can fall to 0℃ in the winter and reach 35℃ in the summer.  So we have 4 seasons. |

***CONDITIONS***

**DURATION OF EXCHANGE:**

The duration of exchange should be between 10 months and 11 and a half month, and, every inbound students have to go home within one week after school or by July 31st. (within VISA expiration date)

**TRAVEL TO JAPAN:**

The arrival point for students coming to District 2660 are **KANSAI INTERNATINAL Airport (KIX) or ITAMI Airport (ITA)**. The D.2660 Youth Exchange Committee (YEC) and the 1st host family **MUST** be notified in advance of flight details and arrival times.

**RETURN HOME:**

The student will return home on the date and by the route arranged by your Sponsor District YEC and our D.2660 YEC.

There will be **no variations, or discussions of variations,** except in the case of death or severe illness in the student's family.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**

Parents/Guardians have several responsibilities to ensure a successful exchange. These include providing a caring support of the student without becoming too demanding. Parents must ensure that the student has sufficient financial support to provide for clothing, entertainment, personal travel and any other expenses not covered by Rotary.

**VISITS BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**

Visits by parents (and relatives) are prohibited except in case of special reason. Such visits may only take place with the host club’s and district’s consent and within their guidelines. Typically, visits may be arranged only in the last quarter of the exchange or during spring breaks and are not allowed during major holidays.

**EXPENSES:**

The parents, guardian or student must provide:

(1) Roundtrip air ticket between home and the airport of the final destination in Japan.

(2) Return flight expenses of accompanying and non accompanying baggage.

There were often embarrassing cases wherein the students cannot afford to pay the excess baggage that they have.

(3) All clothing and personal requirements of the student.

(4) Miscellaneous personal expenses including expenses for travel, souvenirs, gifts, postage, domestic long distance and

overseas telephone calls.

(5) Contingency funds of not less than **$300 USD**. This fund is to be used for emergency travel, clothing,

unexpected major expenses and similar needs. Upon arrival, this money is deposited under the student's name, and to safeguard against impulsive spending, the advice of the student counselor as well as the student is required for withdrawals. This fund will be returned to the student shortly before returning home.

(6) All insurance, as required and detailed the article of INSURANCE.

(7) Any other cost of medical treatment or other costs not covered by insurance policies.

(8) $900USD to cover a part of scheduled OFFICIAL TOUR expense.

**NEW RESIDENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:**

As The Alien Registration System was abolished on July 9, 2012, the new residency management system came into effect. A Resident Card will be issued with the introduction of a new residency management system.

**Issue of Resident Card (“zairyu” card)**

(1) Who this applies to: A Resident Card will be issued to persons residing in Japan who have been granted a status of residence with a period of stay of more than three months.

・A Resident Card will not be issued to persons with Temporary Visitor status or persons with Diplomat or Official status.

・For special permanent residents, a Special Permanent Resident Certificate will be issued instead of a Resident Card.

(2) Information shown: In addition to a picture (face only), information such as name, nationality/region, date of birth, sex, status of residence, period of stay, and working permits will be shown on the card.

(3) Place of Issue:

・Regional Immigration Offices: Starting July 9th, 2012, a Resident Card will be issued at Narita, Haneda, Chubu and Kansai airports to those entering Japan with a mid- to long-term resident status. However, for those entering via all other ports of entry and departure, a Resident Card will be mailed by Simplified Registered Mail to the individual’s reported place of residence submitted to municipal offices upon entry. For further information, please contact a Regional Immigration Bureau, District Immigration Office or Branch Office.

(4) When you move to Japan from a foreign country for the first time, Please notify the City Office of your 1st host

family’saddress within 14 days. Please bring your resident “zairyu” card which was issued at airport when you

landed with you.

**INSURANCE:**

**Insurance is a most important requirement. It provides a safeguard against unforeseen expenses.**

**Rotary International requires** that all students have insurance cover for medical expenses and accidental death.

The parent or legal guardian of the Youth Exchange student is responsible for the payment of all medical and accident costs.

**All inbound student must buy RIJYEM Insurance Plan**.

When you enroll our RIJYEC Insurance Plan, please access to RIJYEC website and enroll by online.

RIJYEC Website : <http://rijyec.org>

Please find Button for "RIJYEM Insurance Plan", and Click it to start enrolling procedure.

Either VISA or MasterCard is necessary for payment.

In district 2660 host rotary club bear the cost for NHI (National Health Insurance) which any person who has an address in Japan must enroll in.

**HOST ROTARY DISTRICT (D.2660):**The District will provide a briefing (orientation) on Rotary's expectations of the student. This briefing will occur shortly after arrival.  
 **HOST ROTARY CLUB:**The host Rotary Club will provide;  
(1) Host families. There may be three or four host families. They will be Rotary approved but not necessarily Rotary

　 members.

(2) A Student Counselor. You need to develop a friendship with your Counselor. He or she is the person most

important to the success of your exchange. You must get the Counselor's approval for some activities.

(3) Schooling at a school of its choice, school uniform, fees, books and fares necessary between the host family and

　school. (Students must however, cover the cost of any club/extra-curricula activities.)

(4) Expenses for any function or conference where the student is invited by Rotary including travel and accommodation

expenses **(excluding D.2660 compulsory tour mentioned page 6)**.

(5) A monthly allowance as agreed by RI, paid in advance each month and to be used at the student's discretion. (The monthly allowance is **\10,000 (Japanese Yen.)**

**HOST FAMILY:**

The student is to become an active member of his or her host family, assuming any duties and domestic responsibilities normally expected in that household. The student must obtain the permission of the host family for various activities as determined and must accept any curfews discipline imposed. The curfew is **9 p.m.** In circumstances whereby the student will be late or activities will extend past this time, students must obtain permission from their host family. The host family will provide all meals and living conditions as enjoyed by the rest of the family.

***RULES***

**SCHOOLING:**

The student must attend high school assigned by your host Rotary Club. You are expected to take part in all school activities. Academic studies must be undertaken and are subject to regular reports by the school. School rules must be adhered to.

Please be aware that **it is not possible to obtain certification of credit** for subjects studied.

**LAWS:**

The student **MUST** obey the laws of **JAPAN** at all times.

ILLEGAL DRUGS, POSSESSION AND OR USE ARE ILLEGAL AND NOT PERMITTED.

**ALCOHOL:**

The drinking of alcoholic beverages in any place or at any function or activity is not permitted.

**SMOKING:**

The smoking of tobacco products is not permitted.

**ROMANTIC ACTIVITY:**

Romantic attachments are discouraged. Promiscuity is not permitted.

**TRAVEL:**

The student must observe the travel rules as specified for students hosted in D.2660. These are:

***\* TRAVEL WITHIN D.2660***

Students are to obtain the permission of their host parents.

***\* TRAVEL OUTSIDE D. 2660***

Students **MUST** obtain the permission of D.2660 YEC through your host Rotary Club Youth Exchange Officer in writing. This is also required in the event that parents/guardians visit Japan. Any private travel during school term may not permitted by D.2660 YEC. School approval **MUST** be given if travel will occur during the school term. Travel between students (inclusive of inbound students) without a chaperone is not permitted under any circumstances. A complete itinerary of the trip including contact telephone numbers is to be provided to your host RC and D**.2660** YEC.

***\* TRAVEL OUTSIDE JAPAN***

Travel outside of Japan is only permitted for district-sponsored, club-sponsored, and school excursions.

Otherwise, travel outside Japan during the exchange period is not permitted under any circumstances.

At the end of the exchange period, if you leave the program completely and are accompanied by a guardian, you may travel abroad.

**NOT APPROVED;**

**The following activities will not be approved under any circumstances.**

(1) The use of Non Motorized and Motorized Gliders.

(2) Hang gliding (all types inclusive).

(3) The use of Ultra light Airplanes (all types inclusive).

(4) Parachute Jumping, Skydiving, Bungee Jumping.

(5) Any other activities of a dangerous nature as determined by D.2660YEC and as periodically advised.

(6) All the activities, including (1)to(5)above, not covered by your travel and life insurance

(Please check your insurance policy.)

**OTHER NON APPROVED ACTIVITIES:**

**BODY PIERCING AND TATTOOS:**

In the interest of personal health and hygiene, students are not permitted to have any additional piercing and body painting done while on exchange. Because most of high schools ban any body piercing or tattoos in Japan, students who already have those are recommended to ask the school teachers to give you proper advise beforehand to avoid any troubles.

***REPATRIATION***

**The student shall be returned home at his or her parent's expense during the exchange year if he or she**:

(1) Drives a motor vehicle, motor bike;

(2) Possesses or uses illegal drugs;

(3) Drinks alcoholic beverages;

(4) Smokes tobacco products;

(5)　Engages in promiscuous activities;

(6)　Absence from school without the consent of the counselor;

(7) Does not adapt to his or her new host town or city environment or presents an unsatisfactory attitude to their

hosting Rotary Club;

(8) Commits a theft of any money or material goods;

(9) Commits any criminal offence;

(10) Damages the image of Rotary in any way.

**If early repatriation is to be considered for any of the above reasons, this will be done in consultation with the student, the student's host Rotary Club, counselor / international service chairperson / president, the two District YEC Chairpersons and the student's parents/guardian.**

***EXPECTATIONS***

We are delighted that you are to be hosted in our district for your year as a Rotary Exchange Student. Your host Rotary Club and members of the District YEC have certain expectations of you. Most of these are detailed in the preceding sections of Conditions and Rules.

During your year in Japan you will be an example for other exchange students. You will also be an ambassador for Rotary, your home country and most importantly yourself. It is for these reasons that we require your attention to all of these conditions and rules. Additionally, you may be expected to speak on a number of occasions to Rotarians, service clubs, youth groups and other organizations about yourself and your homeland. This is an opportunity to promote you as an ambassador.

Japan is a country with a long history and many famous tourist attractions. In some instances you may be offered the opportunity to travel to different parts of Japan. This may be with your host family or other members of Rotary or ROTEX. However, do not expect this as it may not happen. If an opportunity does present itself, you are expected to offer to pay your share of any costs involved.

**COMPULSORY TOUR:**

Each year D**.2660** YEC arranges a Rotary chaperoned tour to several places. The itinerary and duration of the tour may vary from year to year.

You will be required to pay for these compulsory functions; all students **HAVE TO** participate.

The cost of **$900 USD** for tour is the responsibility of the student. This is to be forwarded to the YEC of D.2660 via your host Rotary Club, as soon as possible after arriving in Japan. (The total cost of these is approximately **USD1,800**

. The student is expected to pay **$900 USD** and the district will cover the remaining sum.

**THINGS TO BRING:**

Please ensure that you bring items that are suited to the climate and customs of Japan. Also, if taking **medication**, please ensure that you bring it with you.

**Finally, we generally will expect that you adapt yourself to our habits; we do not think that they are better than yours, only that they are different. The principal objective of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program is to promote better understanding and goodwill. With your assistance, and ours, the full purpose of the program will be met.**

**We look forward to your arrival and the completion of a successful year of exchange with Rotary D.2660**.

FAQ by Inbound Students

Q. What are the duties of a Goodwill Ambassador?

A. You will have to attend various Rotary cultural exchange events and club meetings, including our district assembly in December. You will also be invited to give at least two thirty-minute Japanese speeches at Rotary club meetings from February through May.

Q. What are the most important rules I must follow during this program?

A. The Four D Rules: NO DRUGS, NO DRINKING, NO DRIVING, and NO DATING. Breaking the above rules will result in an immediate termination of your exchange.

Q. What do I bring to Japan?

A. Besides your personal effects you will need: 1) a valid visa and passport, 2) a one-year open plane ticket, 3) Emergency funds ($300), 4) 2 x Official Excursion fee ($900), 5) A winter coat, 6) traditional attire (if any).

Things that might come in handy are: 1) name cards with your picture on them; 2) pin badges; 3) country flag; and 4) pictures of your family and neighborhood.

Q. What are the first things I have to do after arrival?

A. 1. You are required to arrive at either Kansai International Airport or Osaka International Airport right between **August 16th to 20th, 2025.** Upon your arrival you will be taken to your host family’s house.

2.You will discuss your food restrictions, house rules, and duties with your host family (First Night Questions).

3. Accompanied by your counselor or host family member you will go to the nearby City Hall and apply for the national health insurance policy. The insurance fee will be paid by your host club and the insurance card will be sent to your host family address in about two weeks.

Q. What kind of support will I receive during my stay?

A. Firstly, a counselor will be assigned to you, to whom you may discuss your problems freely. This counselor will be a Rotarian of your host club, who is highly experienced in this program and will be a liaison for you.

Secondly, a ROTEX advisor will be assigned to you, who is close to your age and will speak either English or your native language. A ROTEX who assists in this program is usually a Japanese university student who has completed his/her one year exchange program as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student.

Q. If need should arise, how can I pay for my medication or hospital bills during my stay?

A. First, you are requested to enroll our designated RIJYEC insurance before your departure. Second, the national health insurance policy eligible to all residents of Japan (including foreign nationals with a one year or longer visa), which will be paid by your host club after your arrival. This insurance policy covers 70 percent of the payment at the medical counter. The remaining 30 percent balance will be reimbursed by the first mentioned policy after the medical documents are in order.

Q. How frequent can I travel in Japan, and with whom?

A. There are four types of trips that are permitted: 1) school excursions; 2) host family trips, 3) Rotary club trips, and 4) district committee camps. All trips must be accompanied by either a Rotarian, a host family parent or, in the first case, a schoolteacher, and must be approved by your host club and reviewed by the district committee in advance.

Under no circumstances are trips allowed by students alone.

Q. Can my parents or other relatives visit me at any time?

A. To prevent students from becoming homesick and to help them concentrate on the tasks at hand, contact from family members are strongly discouraged. Parental visits are allowed only **after spring vacation starts (around March 20th).** Such visits have to be approved by your host club and announced to the district committee in advance. These visits must not interfere with district or club schedules and must not be conducted during major national holidays.

Q. How much Japanese do I have to know beforehand?

A. For your exchange to succeed, Japan should be the first country of your choice. As for Japanese language skills, basic everyday conversation is a prerequisite, e.g., greetings, showing gratitude, apologizing, and making inquiries. But always remember: to gain trust you need to show that you can follow the rules through your actions. Words mean nothing if you can't keep them.

Q. Do I have a choice in selecting schools and can I change my school afterwards?

A. The answer is No.

Q. Can I receive credit from the school I attend?

A. Rotary cannot be held responsible for school credits. Inbound students must directly inquire or discuss the matter with the schools concerned.

Q. Can I get a tattoo or a body pierce done while I am in Japan?

A. In the interest of personal health and hygiene, students are not permitted to have any additional piercing and body painting done while on exchange. Because most of high schools ban any body piercing or tattoos in Japan, students who already have those are recommended to ask the schoolteachers to give you proper advice beforehand to avoid any troubles.

Q. How can I learn more about ROTARY and its Youth Exchange Program?

A. Ask your sponsor club for more details or visit the Rotary International website.