

Winter Park / Fraser Rotary Club

Winter Park / Fraser Valley Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at noon at Beaver Village Lodge 726-5741

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Service above Self

Become a Rocky Mtn. Rotary Youth Exchange Host Family

by Will Arduino

Why in the world would you want to host some kid from some other country who you do not know? Invite them into your home, make them part of your family? Let them have free roam of your home, give them a key, include them in family events?

Hosting a student is possibly one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences you and your family can have with far less effort than you might expect.

All RYE students are interviewed and go through a year long process to ensure they are the right student for the program. They are not just some kid—they are Rotary Youth Exchange Students. Each student brings with them an array of questions to help them better fit within your family structure. They are given skills by the Rotary organization to help them better acclimate and adjust to their new environment. Likewise, host family training is provided and host families have numerous contacts within Rotary to assist in situations from homesickness to cultural differences. No one is left to fend for themselves.

The local Rotary club will ensure the student is enrolled at a local area school and they provide a monthly stipend for the student. As a host family, you are expected to provide a warm, nurturing environment for the student, meals and a place to sleep. Clothes, gifts, movie tickets, ski passes and similar items are the responsibility of the student. Sure, a host family may offer to assist or outright pay for such items but it is not required.

An exchange student will live in your home for 3-4 months typically. They will bring a variety of new ideas and views of the world to you and your family. They will probably offer to cook a meal from their country for you to sample what they eat daily. They will observe and learn from you what it means to be an American family. They will ask about differences and compare cultures with you. Together you will each find yourselves learning things about a foreign land that you don't get on the average 14 day visit!

Students and host families are reminded of the differences in culture yet they discover the similarities. One is not superior to the other, just different in varying ways. Additionally, neither students nor host families are accepted who are unable to realize there are differences or insist on imposing their will upon others—be it religious preferences, political ideologies or governmental systems.

All host families must go through a background check process and a brief interview. This is not only in compliance with various regulations and certifications, but it also helps ensure families and students can focus on the experience rather than questioning their safety and security.

If you are interested in becoming a host family, contact your Judith Graham with the Winter Park Fraser Valley Rotary Club at 970-726-9543, or email Gretchen @Rye5450.org, the inbound student chair. We are excited to have you become part of this program.

Polio Eradication

PolioPlus, the most ambitious program in Rotary's history, is the volunteer arm of a global partnership dedicated to eradicating polio. For more than 20 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease. Today, PolioPlus is recognized worldwide as a model of public-private cooperation in pursuit of a humanitarian goal.

PolioPlus



Rotary International

In addition to providing financial and volunteer support, Rotary works to urge support from other public and private sector partners. This includes the campaign to End Polio Now, inspired by the extraordinary challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To date our local Rotary district has contributed over \$58,000 to this effort.

Shelterbox

Recent fundraisers including the December Theater Night have earned enough for the WP/Fraser Rotary to fund two new shelterboxes. Each shelterbox provides temporary housing and essentials for a family of ten during times of natural disaster. For more information on shelterbox see www.shelterbox.org.

New Officers

Congratulations to Steve Radcliffe, incoming president; Janene Johnson, incoming President Elect, Bob Dillehay, continuing Treasurer, and Leah Bishop, incoming Secretary. These new terms begin on July 1, 2009.

February Events

WP/Fraser Rotary Club Speakers

- 2/3 morning meeting - speaker to be announced
- 2/10 Al Barrett, stories and photos of his summit of Mt Everest
- 2/17 club assembly meeting
- 2/24 to be announced

WP/Fraser Club meets Tuesdays at noon at Beaver's Lodge, except first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am

Granby Club meets Wednesdays at noon at the Silver Creek Inn

Grand Lake Club meets Tuesday 7:00 pm at the Bear Paw Restaurant

Kremmling 2nd/4th Tues. - 7:00am at Middle School Cathy Shipley Room

For more information about the Winter Park Fraser Valley Rotary Club join us at a weekly meeting or see our web site at: www.wpfv-rotary.org

This space funded by the surrounding local Rotary Club members. Please help them help our community

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