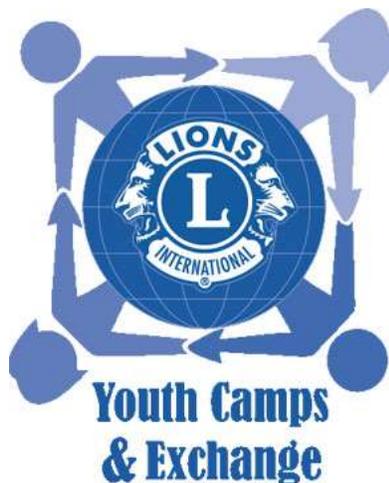


Lions Youth Exchange Program Outgoing Young Adult Ambassadors

Selection of a Lions Young Adult Ambassador

The appropriate selection of a young adult to represent a Lions Club, community, state, and America is of paramount importance. The choice should be a young adult who, it is believed, will make a good "ambassador" both in words and actions. Both areas of character are a reflection of the USA and are of equal importance. Academics are a factor in the selection process, but other areas of a person's character also demonstrate qualities of strength that make a good ambassador. These could be sports, music, leadership, technology, and the like. A young person with good character is what the Lions seek.

Lions believe that every opportunity should be extended to a young adult to expand his/her knowledge, international understanding, and education in cultural diversity. People of the world need to appreciate and understand one another. This can be done through exposure to the culture, through an immersion in the life of a family. As the world becomes smaller through technology, it is imperative that young adults have the opportunity to experience international cultural diversity in order to nurture an improved relationship with America's international neighbors. We do this with the International Lions Youth Exchange Program!



Time Line

September/October/November: District Chairs and committee members promote the program, focusing on and making personal contact with high schools in their District/Region. Upon a young adult's commitment, the District Chairperson sends the initial application to the State Chairperson, Eileen Delaney. A formal recognition of the young adult's acceptance into the Lions Club Youth Exchange Program will be sent from the state chairperson to both the District Chairperson and the young adult.

December 15 or before: The signed Application, Indemnity Form, and Compulsory Items must be received by State Chairperson Eileen Delaney breederbrandi@yahoo.com. Some exceptions may apply with permission however, it must go through the District Chair to the State Chair. Signatures are needed at each level.

Upon Commitment until February 28 the Lions Youth Exchange (LYE) young adult's responsibilities include:

- Contact clubs via a phone call, letter or email correspondence to obtain donations for travel expenses. Make arrangements to meet with the club personally. A list of clubs and pertinent information is furnished by the District Chairperson. Many clubs will not donate unless there is face-to-face contact. The clubs want to know why this experience is important to the LYE young adult.
- Contact family and friends to solicit funds for travel expenses.
- Create, schedule, and execute fundraisers to raise money for the LYE experience.
- Attend the Fall District/Regional Lions Conference (usually in October) to make the LYE visible to the clubs. The clubs want to know why this experience is important to the LYE young adult.
- Obtain a passport and/or visa.

February 28: All funds should be gathered for travel expenses and submitted to State Chairperson Lion Eileen Delaney. February 28 is the deadline for all trip donations from the clubs.

March/April/May/June: Host families are found and flight tickets are purchased. Contact between the host country and the state LYE chairperson is not always immediate. Flight tickets cannot be purchased until a host family is found. Please stick closely to this timeline.

May: Youth and family must attend a mandatory meeting in Lansing for LYE parents/guardians, district LYE chairperson, and/or committee member. The LYE young adult will receive a backpack, shirts, pins, banners, flight tickets, insurance information, and general information about airports, security, filling out immigration forms, etc.

IMPORTANT: Any young adult not making the timeline as listed above will be dropped from that year's program, unless cleared by the District Chair and State Chair. This is a very time-consuming process for all involved, and it requires all involved to closely follow the deadlines.

Thank for your involvement

Lion Eileen Delaney, State LYE Chairperson breederbrandi@yahoo.com

Suggestions for LYE Fundraising

Create a display board, short 5-10 minute video, PowerPoint, or oral presentation about yourself and your desire to travel abroad. This can also be used when visiting a foreign country's Lions Club during your stay overseas.

Include these points and others as seen fit for your presentation:

- Name and family members
- Where you live
- Your involvement in sports, clubs, music, activities
- Other involvement, whether academic or community-based
- Places you have visited in the past
- Why do you want to visit another country? What will you take from the experience? As an Ambassador for the American Lions Clubs and America, how will you relate to the people of a foreign country? Will you be open to new experiences? Will you taste new foods? Will you practice your foreign language skills?

1. Contact clubs via a phone call, letter, or email correspondence to obtain donations for travel expenses. A copy of the PowerPoint or video could be sent to the clubs in lieu of a formal visit when letting the club know of the intent to travel with LYEP.
2. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Make arrangements to meet with the club personally. A list of clubs and pertinent information is furnished by the District Chairperson. Many clubs will not donate unless there is face-to-face contact. The clubs want to know why this experience is important to the LYE young adult. Present your short program to the clubs. They understand that you may be nervous. If timing or distance from a meeting is a problem, send your PowerPoint or a DVD of your video for them to present at a meeting. Follow up with a phone call to be certain that it was received; ask if there are any questions. Write a thank-you note for viewing your presentation at their meeting shortly after the meeting date. Do not wait for any funds to arrive; the clubs look for effort and gratitude.
3. Contact friends and family members. Email and/or Facebook are a good way to get the word out to distant family members. Send your PowerPoint or Video presentation. This demonstrates that you have exerted some effort in exchange for their monetary donation. It demonstrates responsibility and adult behavior.
4. Contact your church (if applicable) and ask to have a bake sale or car wash after Sunday Service.
5. Conduct a community car wash or bake sale. This could occur at a community function, library, or outside a local business.
6. Run, walk, or bike ride in an event. Gather pledges before the event occurs.

**Good luck and have fun! Experience all that you can safely.
As a young person, it is not clear what
knowledge you will need for the future.
Catalog in your mind all that you can; life changes, and you may
need that information in the future.**

Lion Eileen Delaney, State LYE Chairperson breederbrandi@yahoo.com



*People rarely succeed in what they
do unless they have fun in what they are doing.*

—Dale Carnegie