



No. 34 – May 16, 2025

1 minute to discover an aspect of Rotary history

The Origins of the Youth Exchange Program

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program, although formally recognized in 1975, has its origins dating back to the 1920s.

In 1927, Rotary International considered several youth exchange proposals but did not take any concrete action.

However, local clubs organized exchanges, particularly in Europe, fostering international ties.

In 1929, an international conference on these exchanges was held in Copenhagen. The program remained informal, but Rotary encouraged its local clubs to organize them.

In the 1960s, Rotary supported exchanges, but did not immediately formalize them.

Finally, in 1975, the program became a recognized activity of Rotary International, while still being managed by districts and local clubs.

The program's primary objective is to foster peace, goodwill, and international understanding through youth exchanges.

Today, approximately 7,500 participants participate each year.

