

Stendal, 12. September 2019

Dear !

Welcome to the Youth Exchange Program of Rotary District 1800 in Northern Germany!

Congratulations for being accepted to have this opportunity to get to know my country, our people, our culture and customs. Most certainly you are as excited and nervous about this year in a different country, with different ways of life and a different language as are our young people, when they their year abroad.

I. Inboundcoordinator

My name is Kay, I am a judge running the district court of Stendal in Saxony-Anhalt. I am married and we have two sons (17 and 18 years old). I am the person responsible for your placement in the district 1800. I will be the one you can always turn to if any problems should arise during your stay here which cannot be solved on club level (with the help of your counsellor or youth exchange officer). I can be contacted as follows:

**Krähenwinkel 24
D-39576 Stendal
-Germany-**

II. Guarantee Form/ Your Host Club

Your Guarantee Form with more information concerning your year abroad has been uploaded to the Exchange Database and can be viewed there. The signed original is on its way to you through the official channels. Your host club will be the **Rotary Club of _____**.

This club is located in the German state of **Lower Saxony/** Saxony-Anhalt. The Guarantee Form contains the name and address of your first host family, your Counselor, the school and further necessary information. I recommend you let your host family know as early as possible, when and where you intend to arrive in Germany so they can make arrangements where and when to meet you. I think it will be good for all people involved (family and Counselor), if you try to get in contact with them as soon as you get your official papers.

You will find a copy of your Guarantee Form in the exchange database of Rotary

III. Rosetta Stone

Please let me mention something which is very important for me: I would love to see that this year turns out to be a wonderful, impressive year for you with many thrilling new experiences, many new friends – overall a happy time. Please help us to make it such a good time for you! You can help by trying to learn as much German as possible from now on until your departure for Germany, because communication is the most important key to a successful exchange

program. We therefore not only encourage you to learn German before arriving in Germany but ask you to buy and use the language program "Rosetta Stone". The German District 1800 has decided that all inbounds are obligated to use this online –based language program.

Since we have so many inbounds (and outbounds), the provider has agreed to special conditions (109,-€, 12 month-licence) and the possibility to buy and use online from anywhere in the world. For using this program you need a computer or a laptop and a headset. You may follow the link below:

www.exchange-software.com

Please use this code in order to profit from the special offer price:

RS19ROTARY

All inbounds have to enter the program via this link. And no inbound may use another program instead of Rosetta Stone. That is because only on Rosetta Stone I can follow your progress. If you like, you can use another program in addition to Rosetta Stone.

Please send me an email when you bought the licence!

I wish you a lot of success with this program - your club will be thrilled when you arrive with some good knowledge of German - and school life and also making friends will prove to be MUCH easier... ;-) ;-)

I expect you to finish Level 1 before you arrive in Germany.

For this you need nearly 25-30 hours practice in total. On the first orientation in Germany there will be a language test. If you have finished Level 1, I think you will be well prepared.

Please try to keep in mind – when you provide a good experience for your host family, club, school they all will think highly of you, your family and your country – and as a consequence will be willing to accept further exchange students in the future. And the better you get along with your family and friends, the more opportunities will be offered to you. I believe, if you can take an active role from the start on, you will find things will prove quite easy and a bit of learned German might pave the way to the hearts of your new family even easier.

IV. The four D's: No drinking, no drugs, no driving, no dating

Something else that sometimes leads to problems and frustration is the question of alcohol. Although the German law allows the purchase and consumption of certain alcoholic beverages for people 16 years old and older, we like to emphasize, that the no drinking rule still applies to our Inbounds.

The consumption of alcohol is not allowed for our inbounds, unless offered by host parents or Rotarians on special occasions. Unauthorized buying or consumption of alcohol will lead to serious problems with the host family, the Rotary Club and District that can lead up to an early

return; If under age, it could even lead to problems with the authorities as well – please keep that in mind, while you are over here.

Concerning drugs, the rules are even more strict. There is a zero-tolerance policy in that matter and nobody gets a second chance in our district for using, trading and also simply being near of any drugs.

If we see you being near of drugs or even using them, I will have to terminate your exchange.

If you smoke, please keep in mind, that smoking is illegal if you are under 18 years of age and illegal behavior will not be tolerated by us.

Concerning these rules we like to remind you, that you are not allowed to drive any motorized vehicle.

V. Please buy your insurance

Please also remember to get your health and personal liability insurance with the Hanse-Merkur Insurance Company BEFORE you travel to Germany. For that, please follow the link below:

www.rotary-jd.de/inbound-informationen/insurance

Please click there on the number 1800 below and follow the online instruction of the insurance program. The insurance that covers health and personal liability as well as accidents has to be bought from Hanse-Merkur, Germany. An assistance coverage (travel of a relative to a seriously sick exchangee) is included as well. Do not buy an insurance at home that would not be accepted by our side – it only leads to frustration on your or your parents' side.

VI. Bank account

When you arrived in Germany you have to open a bank account here in Germany, where you'll get your monthly allowance from the Rotary-Club. For this bank account we need some things:

- Your passport
- If you are under 18 years of age, a permission from your parents that you are allowed to open a bank account as well as copies from your parents passports or identity card.

Don't forget the 300 € emergency fund.

VII. Arrival dates

When planning your journey consider that school starts on

15th August 2019.

We therefore expect your arrival between **05th and 11th of August 2019**.

Please consult your hostparents for the exact timing concerning your arrival and departure.

(We suggest your departure between the 6th and 12th of July 2020, your exchange year will have to end latest by the end of July 2020)

VIII. VISA

Hier finden sich individuelle Hinweise zur Visumsbeantragung, welche je nach Land differieren.

IX. Travelling

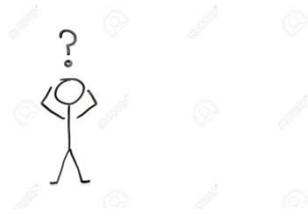
During the exchange we offer an Europe Tour in the spring or summer 2020. If you like to participate you have to have a permission of your parents (you will get the formal documents when you are here, so just one informal letter from your parents). The costs are about 1.400 €.

When you plan your year in Germany, please take into account that we do not encourage visits of family or friends during the exchange year. If your parents want to visit, please plan this for the very end of your year and talk about it with your Counselor. With the Guarantee Forms you get some information from the German Multi-District Coordinator, please follow his advice carefully.

Concerning eventual travelling-plan we asked you to keep in mind, that Rotary has quite strict rules concerning you travelling during the year, since this is not a tourist program. Travels are generally only accepted together with the host family, Rotary Club or school/ sports club or church groups. Journeys etc. with your biological parents during the exchange year are not permitted. If your parents are planning to pick you up in Germany after your exchange and travel through Germany or Europe they can do so, but only after the exchange year is over. If they come during the year, I would have to terminate your exchange.

X. School

Please keep in mind, that you must attend a secondary school during your exchange. Violating this mandatory rule can lead to me terminating your exchange. Please note, that we and Rotary cannot assure, that you can earn credits for your School at home. The decision, which school and grade you will attend is made by your host club in coordination with the school. You will usually attend 10th grade.



Last but not least, do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions or if there should be anything that troubles you.

Give my regards to your family and also to your Sponsor Club at home.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you over here. Take care!

Yours faithfully,

Kay

Please print the following section, sign it and send a scan of it back to me! Thank you!



Rotary

Rotary
Jugenddienst
Distrikt 1800

I have read and understood the content of the welcome letter and the information it contained. I will buy the Rosetta-Stone License and finish Level 1 before arriving in Germany.

Students Name (Print) and Signature

Date

Students Parents Signature