



Rotarian Questions and Answers about V-STEP

What is V-STEP?

V-STEP (Virtual Short Term Exchange Program) is an alternative to the Rotary Short Term Exchange Program where a USA high school student is matched with a student from Europe, Asia or South America. It was created as a result of the pandemic halting all travel for the summer of 2020. Instead of traveling to another country, the USA student and their Match will experience another country, language and culture through a virtual exchange.

When does V-STEP start?

It begins on May 15th and ends on August 15th.

How does V-STEP work?

Your Students must first be approved for Rotary's STEP program. Then they agree to do V-STEP by signing an additional Participation form. Their Match must agree and sign as well. We have the V-STEP Participation Form on the O-E Website. https://ac599967-faad-450e-87dc-ed092b3a9f0d.filesusr.com/ugd/f8d488_0997e8018f2744de9fd6320abeca4654.pdf

The students will be provided with MeetUp Guides by a Rotarian at the District or Club level. (Their main Rotary contact) The Guides will have ideas for MeetUps including an Activity like showing off their city or demonstrating a sport or hobby. It will also include some basic language learning as well as a Section called "What would you do?" which poses situations exchange students may find themselves in and how they might handle them.

What else? Video!

Students can make a brief video (around 2 minutes) at the end of the Meetup that recaps something about the meeting or showcases something the students want to share with the group. Sing a song, do a dance, play a sport, read/write a poem ... all virtually.

How are videos shared with the Group?

V-STEP will have Group Meetings held every other week through ZOOM. ALL V-Steppers AND ROTARIANS can attend and see the videos the students have made! We will also have some great speakers (usually past exchange students) that can tell encouraging and uplifting stories about exchange.





When are the Group Meetings?

They are set for Sundays at 2pm throughout the summer. 2pm to give Europeans a reasonable time to be a part of the Group. (8 to 9 pm their time.) The tentative dates are June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, August 2 and August 16.

Do the Students have to do everything in the MeetUp Guide?

NO. There are NO MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS! Students can do as little or as much as they want. We only want students to enjoy the culture of another country even though they can't travel there this summer.

How are the MeetUp Guides distributed?

The first Guide will be linked on the O-E Multi-District Website: <https://www.oerye.org/v-step> (Available on May 15th when the program starts.)

How does Rotary stay involved?

All future links for MeetUp Guides will be provided by an assigned local Rotary contact. This can be a local Club YEO or the District representative. It is important this person be consistent throughout the V-STEP. The Rotarian should introduce him/herself and tell the students they will be working through him/her. Students will email or call the Rotary contact and say they have completed the first MeetUp and then the Rotarian will send the next one! Each time a MeetUp is completed, the students will email the Rotarian and the Rotarian sends a link to the next MeetUp. This keeps Rotary involved which can keep track of the student's progress and help them keep moving if they hit a snag.

How many MeetUps are there?

We have created 20 MeetUps, 10 for one side (USA) and 10 for the other. (Europe, Asia and South America) That's about 1 ½ per week if all are done, but students don't have to do them all. They do as many as they want. Rotary should always encourage involvement, but we don't want to put pressure on the students. We want them to have fun with this.

Do the students have to do the MeetUps all at one time?

No, they can take a few minutes to start and do one part, then wait for a later day or time to do another part. Scheduling and the amount of time they take on each MeetUp is between the students. Rotary can give guidance. We estimated each MeetUp could take about an hour.





How do students make and get their video to Rotary?

We will provide separate guides to making a good V-STEP video and some samples. Once students complete a video, they will Upload the video to our O-E website and once reviewed, all videos will be displayed on our YouTube Channel after each group meeting.

How much does it cost?

Nothing! We are providing V-STEP for free because we want our STEP students to have a successful exchange this summer, even if they can't travel. If your District has collected money from your STEP students, please see about refunding all or a portion of the STEP fee. O-E will not be making any charges for STEP this year.

What do the Students receive if they complete all 20 MeetUps?

We plan to give every participant some type of acknowledgement they can show they participated in V-STEP. This will be whether they do all the MeetUps or not. But we might have a shout out at the last Group Meeting for any match that does all 20!

What if I have more questions?

Please contact John Koetz, O-E STEP Chair at john@wedavis.com or call – 614-519-1836

