



Lions Youth Exchange  
Try it. You will enjoy it.



## **Lions Clubs International Youth Camp and Exchange Program**



## **Application Guidelines for Australian Youth**



## Aim of the YCE Program

The purpose of the Lions Youth Exchange Program is **to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world by:**

- bringing young people into contact with youth and adults of other countries;
- experiencing family and community life of another culture;
- promoting international understanding and goodwill throughout the world of Lionism.

Youth Exchange is NOT a shopping / sightseeing holiday offering young adults freedom to choose daily activities and travel on their own. Participating youth from Australia act as youth ambassadors for their country, Lions Clubs International and their local Lions District and Club. They are expected to conform to the guidelines of the YCE Program and agree to be chaperoned throughout their overseas visit.

Living with one or more overseas families associated with Lions Clubs International is a unique opportunity to learn more about a new culture, lifestyle, family values, local history and, in some cases, to practise second languages such as German, French, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. The same experience cannot be gained as a tourist. Host families are carefully screened by Lions Clubs International. Each family will design a unique itinerary of outings and sightseeing involving their family, friends and Lions members. Australian youth are required to give short speeches to groups including Lions Clubs, school groups, local government, social groups and others. Confident public-speaking skills are essential.

Applications open in January and close on 30 June each. Some overseas destinations have a quota limit so early applications are recommended.

## Destinations

Popular destinations include North and South America, Europe, New Zealand, Japan and Malaysia. Stopovers are available in London and Los Angeles.

## Costs

Each Australian applicant will pay between \$3,000 and \$7,500 for their application depending on the overseas destination. Their local Lions Club will contribute approximately \$240 towards their youth exchange uniform package. A \$750 non-refundable deposit is paid by each youth when application documents are submitted. The balance is due approximately September.

## Application process—follow these steps:

1. **Read available information** on the youth exchange website—[www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye).
2. **Choose an overseas destination.** *Youth wishing to travel to Japan and France must have 2-3 years recent ongoing study in the Japanese or French language because their host families may not speak English.* Lions International cannot guarantee youth will visit their first choice of destination. Host families are not available in all towns and cities.
3. **Go to the Destinations webpage** and note the name and contact email for the Lions YE Program Chairperson managing the chosen destination.
4. **Send an enquiry email** to the Program Chairperson for the chosen destination. The Program Chairperson will provide further information via email or a telephone call. Parents will also be contacted.
5. **Contact a local Lions Club** to request an interview. If applicants do not know any local Lions, the Program Chairperson can help to find a Club. Two or three members of the local Club, the applicant and parent(s) will meet for about one hour. The aim of the interview is to determine if an applicant would be a worthy youth ambassador for Australia. Youth give a five-minute speech in English at the interview to prove their public-speaking skills. Following a successful interview, the local Lions Club will offer to support the interviewee for travel.
6. **Complete a YE application form** which will be forwarded by the Program Chairperson. Other documents are required as well as a \$750 non-refundable deposit.
7. **Join members of the nominating Lions Club** to help with a few fundraising or community projects.
8. **Attend a compulsory YE seminar** in October-November held in the applicant's District.
9. **Attend at least one meeting** of the nominating Lions Club to give a speech to members.
10. **Research available online information** about the culture, etiquette, lifestyle and weather of the overseas destination to prepare for a home environment different to that in Australia.
11. **Attend a meeting of the nominating Lions Club** on return to Australia to give feedback on the overseas journey and pass on gifts from the Lions overseas.