**Information for inbounds coming to Croatia in 2012/13 school year**

Dear student Yu-Chun CHIEN (Angel),

You are warmly welcomed to Croatia – a small country in central/eastern Europe.

We expect to host **22 students** this year: **3** from Canada, **10** from the United States, **4** from Mexico, **1** from Germany, **1** from Finland, **1** from France, **2** from Taiwan.

You will be hosted by:

District 1913

**Rotary Club Zagreb Dora** in the city of **Zagreb**

Your Youth Exchange Officer will be: Sanja Vukina, e-mail: svukina@vukina.hr

Your first host family will be : Barl Zlatko (host father) and Snjezana (host mother) e-mail: snjezana.barl@yahoo.com

You are advised to contact your host club YEO and your host family ASAP

Croatian youth exchange team hopes that you will spend a memorable year here in Croatia with your host clubs and host families.

**Signed Guarantee forms** with the details on your host club, school you will attend and host families will be sent to your Rotary Districts and you will get them in due time.

Together with the **signed Guarantee forms** you will get some additional documents:

* **host club acceptance letter** in Croatian
* **school acceptance letter** in Croatian
* **host family ownership deed** in Croatian
* These documents are to be submitted to Croatian Embassy therefore we provided them in Croatian so you would not have to translate them and have additional expenses.

All this documents will be needed for your student **visa/first time temporary residence permit** that can be obtained from the closest Croatian Embassy. Please contact the embassy to double-check their requirements.

It is very important that together with the documents you will receive from us **you prepare all required documents on your end, like photos, birth certificate, passport, police certificate of no criminal record, and the most important is the authorization that your parents need to give to your host** **parents in Croatia**. You are a minor and that **authorization certified by a public notary** should be submitted with other documents, and the second original copy you should bring with you to Croatia – so you **need two** original authorizations. Please find attached the template.

The process of obtaining the permit can be very lengthy (two to three month after submission of all documents) and you need to start it **immediately** upon receiving documents from Croatia. You will also be required to show for an interview.

Please **send this information to your travel agent as well.**

**You should get the residence sticker in your passport prior to your trip to Croatia**.

You **can not get it in Croatia but in the Embassy where you submitted your documents.**

Please inform us if you hit any problems.

You are expected to arrive to Croatia between **August 25 and September 1**, as the school starts here on **September 3,** **2012**. That will give you just enough time to get to know your host family and settle down a bit. The specific date of your arrival should be arranged with your host family. Students should arrive at **Zagreb airport** where they will be met by their host families.

**Learning the language** is the very important part of the exchange experience. We would like to encourage students to start learning some Croatian as soon as possible. If you can find a Croatian person in your neighborhood try to organize some classes with them. Basic knowledge of the language will help you to survive the first couple of weeks in your school. **Intensive language classes** will be organized throughout the school year. Students will have to cover expenses for the language classes of app. **400 US$.**

**School**: This is a high-school cultural and educational program. You are requested to **attend school regularly** and to participate in all classes the best you can. School may be the best place to make friends. In the beginning it could be difficult because of the limited language skills. However, you are expected to participate and pay attention to the lectures and not create any disturbance or do something else during classes (put headphones on, etc.).

Some **trips** will be organized for you within the country – to Plitvice lakes, Castles of Zagorje, to the coast and to Dubrovnik – cost will be app. **150 $.**

You will also be invited to join the **Euro tour together with Austians** in May – the tour is optional and costs app. **1250 Euros**.

**Local insurance is required** that will cost you app. **80 US$ per month**. That insurance will cover illness and hospital during your stay in Croatia. Traveling is not covered.

**Travel:** During the exchange year any travel is subject to Rotary and host family control, supervision and approval. Travel is permitted **only with host parents or on Rotary authorized functions with proper adult chaperons.** The host district contact, host club, host family and student’s own parents must approve any other travel in writing. Travel from and to the student’s native country is to be a direct route. Prior to the departure you have to notify the host club and your host family on your travel itinerary (date, time, flight number).

**The program ends on 1 July 2013** the latest, so when buying the plane ticked you can plan your return date as well.

Your additional questions may be addressed to: Vanessa, e-mail: youthexchange@rotary.hr

Hope you will prepare well for your year in Croatia.

Kind regards from Croatian Youth Exchange team:

Mislav Jelic – RYE Chairperson

Petra Horvatovic – Long Term Manager

Vlatka Cikac – Youth Exchange Committee member

Ljiljana Crnkovic – Long Term Coordinator

Vanessa Lana Jelacic – Youth Exchange Administrator