



Coming in September:

Applications for the 2017 Lexington-County Kildare Student Summer Exchange Program will be available in September. Applications may be found here, with your Social Studies teacher, or your counselor.

Program Information:

The purpose of the Lexington-County Kildare Exchange Program is to provide a genuine cultural and family experience in another country for middle and high school students of Lexington, Kentucky and those of County Kildare, Ireland.

The American student's parent(s) must be willing and able to receive an Irish student in their home for approximately the same length of time as the American student is in Ireland, but not simultaneously. The Irish and the American student should be together for both parts of the exchange. Students should exhibit maturity, flexibility, and an interest in the Irish culture. Students over the age of 18 before July 1, 2017 will not be considered for this program.

The exchange will be for ten days to two weeks during the summer. The students will travel as a group with an adult chaperone. You should be prepared to incur an expense of approximately \$1,500 in transportation cost. The host family will provide Room and Board.

Other Information:

1. **Passports:** You must secure a valid U.S. passport – do this early.
2. **Reciprocity:** Your family must agree to keep an Irish student for approximately the same length of time as you spend with an Irish family. You will be matched with an Irish student by the Lexington and County Kildare Committees. When matching, consideration will be given to gender, interests, and age; you will be making a commitment to stay with your exchange partner for the duration of the exchange.
3. **Personal Conduct:** Each student is expected to obey the rules of the house regarding curfew and other matters. You are expected to participate as if you were a member of your Irish family, and you are to treat your Irish parents with the same respect you afford your own. As a guest, you must respect the customs and rules of your host family. Remember, you are representing your family, your school, Lexington, and the United States as an exchange student, and you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner above reproach. Otherwise, you may be sent home at your parents' expense.
4. **Interviews/Orientations:** Both students and parents will be required to attend interviews conducted by the Lexington-County Kildare Committee. Upon acceptance into the program, both students and parents will be required to attend **all** orientation sessions.
5. **Sister Cities Involvement:** In order to help maintain the success of the exchange program, you will be expected to participate in future programs (assist with orientations; write a report on your experience, volunteer at fundraisers, etc.)

After applications have been received, interviews will be set up for both students and parents. Upon acceptance in this program, monthly orientations will be held to prepare students for the trip.