

Rotary Youth Exchange

Prior to 1985, District 589 had no involvement in Rotary Youth Exchange. There were district committees set up here and there (1982-1983 and 1983-1984 e. g.) but no exchanges were made. In 1985 a concerted effort was made to get something going. These efforts involved, among others, Harold Jones of the West Houston Club and David Taylor, Jim Hargrove, and Bob Wren of the Space Center Club. Harold did most of the legwork. The first exchange was to serve as a trial balloon to see if this would work. In June 1986 our first intrepid souls went to Cheltenham College (high school) in England. Our Club's stalwarts included Danny Taylor, Pat Wren, Susan Hargrove, and Patrice Staples. Later, Cheltenham College students returned the favor and visited us. The short-term student exchange was a success and the next Rotary year, 1986-1987, a Youth Exchange Committee was officially created at District level with Harold Jones as Chair and included David Taylor. So started District 589's involvement in Rotary Youth Exchanges, both Short and Long Term. By Bob Wren