

# Summer Conference 2010 Central States Rotary Youth Exchange July 8-11



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## Overview:

The CSRYE Summer Conference is held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan during the second weekend in July (Students arrive Thursday, Parents arrive Friday, Saturday, leave Sunday AM.), is probably one of the most interesting weekends you will ever spend with your son or daughter. However, there are several things you need to know about how the weekend is structured for you to maximize the benefits this conference offers;

The main objective of the weekend is to finish the preparation that has been started in the district to prepare the **Outbound** students to spend a year abroad. It is also an excellent opportunity for the soon to be returning **Inbound** students to properly orient themselves for the sometimes difficult task of returning to their native culture. Lastly, we welcome home our **Rebound** students and help them to understand re-entry into our culture and their own families. There will be in excess of one thousand people. (Last year's attendance 1,400+) The parents of all RYE students are requested and encouraged to attend.

## Things to remember:

- A. Grand Rapids is on Eastern Zone time in July.
- B. Students must stay on Campus. It's recommended that if parents want to really be a part of the weekend, they should also plan to stay on Campus. However, parents need to know that along with the extremely reasonable fee (\$10 per person per day per room plus meals), there are certain adjustments to living in College dormitories.
- C. The conference is informal and you should dress comfortably. It will probably be hot. **DO NOT BRING YOUR BLAZER unless you are a Rebound!** Bring your district name tag.
- D. There is a very nice swimming pool, bring your suit. There also will be a soccer match where all are given a chance to play.
- E. Talent Show try outs will be held Friday morning. **BRING YOUR COSTUME, MUSIC, and INSTRUMENT** with you if you intend to try-out.

### Top Ten Adjustments to living in a Dormitory:

1. You will be sharing a bathroom. College dorm rooms are arranged such that there is a two- person room on either side of one bathroom. You simply close the opposite door when you enter the bathroom.
2. No exchange student will be housed with their parents. All rooms are double occupancy which means you will have a roommate. For divorced parents, unless you carefully explain on your registration form, you may be sharing a room with your ex-mate again.

3. There is no air conditioning. Consider bringing a window fan. Grand Rapids can be hot in July. Fans can also be rented \$1 per day (\$5 deposit) at the desk in each dorm in case you forget to bring your own. Supply is limited however.
4. You will be asked to make a ten-dollar (**\$10**) deposit for each room key. This deposit will be refunded on Sunday morning at check-out. All bed linens, towels, and soap are provided.
5. You will have no phone or TV in your room. There are small kitchenettes located down the hall with a refrigerator and microwave but your registration covers the cost of all meals. These kitchens are hardly ever used by our people, but they may be utilized.
6. There is a **\$35.00 charge** for damaging the window screen in your dorm room.
7. There are pay phones and soft drink machines in the lobbies of the dorms or in the basement recreation rooms.
8. There is no smoking in the dorms or any buildings on Campus.
9. Many parents stay on Campus. It's up to you. All students must stay on campus all together in the District dorm building. Parents, if you feel a local hotel would better accommodate you (air-conditioning) please feel free to make your own reservation. When we provide your registration materials to you, simply indicate your desire for off-Campus accommodations.
10. The Dorms are secured (locked with alarms) at 1:00 A.M. each night, with no entry or exit allowed. Thursday night will be Midnight.
11. We try to keep the parents in separate dorms, but it's not always possible.

## Weekend Schedule:

The official **opening ceremony** is Friday at 12:30 P.M. You don't want to miss this. Every year parents say that this is one of their favorite parts of the weekend. However, approximately 400 people (including our students) arrive the day before, on Thursday afternoon because Central States Youth Exchange program has their semi-annual Board of Directors meeting in advance of the conference. We have limited district functions, but there is dinner planned for Thursday evening.

We're sorry, but there are no planned activities for siblings. In fact, we have grown in our numbers so much in the past few years, that we are presently "pushing-the-limits" of the College to handle this large of a group. We literally use almost every possible dorm room available. To that end, we do not encourage siblings to attend. We simply do not have enough room for all the brothers and sisters of the students. Brothers and sisters of RYE students will be allowed to stay on campus and participate if they are at least 15 years of age. Brothers and sisters under 15 years of age must be housed with parents **ON** or **OFF** campus. At this point, we are not forbidding their attendance, it's simply a case of trying to keep our focus as to what our main purpose is and should be. Also, meetings tend to bore young children. Thanks for your help on this.

The primary **Registration time** is Friday morning from 8:30 - 12:30. This is the time period when you should plan on arriving. Signs will direct you once you get to Campus. The directions to Calvin College are on a later page here. All students must ride the District bus to Grand Rapids and back; leaving Thursday and returning Sunday.

We have many **activities planned** for this weekend conference. We have provided critical meeting times for each important group in attendance. The various groups are: Outbound students; Rebound students; Inbound students; Outbound parents; and Rebound parents. We also have planned interaction for all groups within each other. We feel that each scheduled session has definite value, and therefore encourage you to attend and

participate. The information presented is the result of years of input by the students and responses of the parents who have been there before you.

On Saturday night the extremely popular **Talent / Variety Show** will be presented and parents will be given a Parents Questionnaire to complete. This is your chance to give us input as to how the conference has done in terms of preparing your son/daughter to either spend a year abroad or, in the Rebound's case, to assimilate back into your home culture. We rely heavily on your input to prepare for future conferences, so please take the time to fill one out.

Bring a pen and keep it with you as you will meet people that you'll want to jot down their address or phone number or note special ideas that you hear. There are places in the program booklet to do this.

## General Registration Information

All persons attending any part of the Grand Rapids Conference must **PRE-REGISTER and PRE-PAY**. Persons not pre-registered or pre-paid will NOT be allowed to attend the Conference. **All District 6440 participants must be registered by our Business Manager, not directly to CSRYE, please.**

The conference will officially begin with lunch on Friday, and concludes after breakfast when our bus leaves at 8:30 AM on Sunday. Registration will begin at 2:00 PM on Thursday for those pre-registered to stay on campus Thursday night. Everyone arriving Thursday must be pre-registered for Thursday arrival. All students must be in attendance for the beginning session immediately after lunch on Friday. Adults staying off campus must make their own arrangements and hotel reservations.

Casual dress is acceptable throughout this conference. Those persons wishing to participate in the scheduled swimming must bring personal swimsuits. All attendees must wear their name badge and wrist band for the entire conference. Bring socks along for the dance, you will be removing your shoes and to prevent blisters, it is better to wear socks.

We cannot allow other students to attend who are not involved in the Central States RYE Program. You can pre-order a DVD of the Conference when you register. You may also order it at the conference, but you must then pay for it while in Grand Rapids. The DVD's will be mailed within 6 months to an address you must give, but it must be in the United States. List either your host family or your YEO so they can mail it to you later. Make sure they are expecting it and know where to mail it.

## District Bus Information

Our District provides a bus ride for all students. There is **ONE PICK UP POINT THIS YEAR**. It is at the **Woodfield Hyatt, 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg**, located directly north of Woodfield Mall. We will meet at the **BACK** parking lot (north of the building). Be sure to be there at **9:45 a.m.** on Thursday, July 8. All bags will be hand checked for inappropriate items such as alcohol. The bus will not wait and if you miss the bus, you will have to be driven by a parent or YEO to Grand Rapids. **DO NOT BE LATE!!!**

**10:00 A.M. (DEPARTURE TIME) from the Woodfield Hyatt back parking lot.**

The following RYE Committee member will be riding the bus:

Steve Cherveney - cell (847) 343-3548

Martha Weiss - cell (847) 226-9200

Joe Nordstrom - cell (847) 774-0445

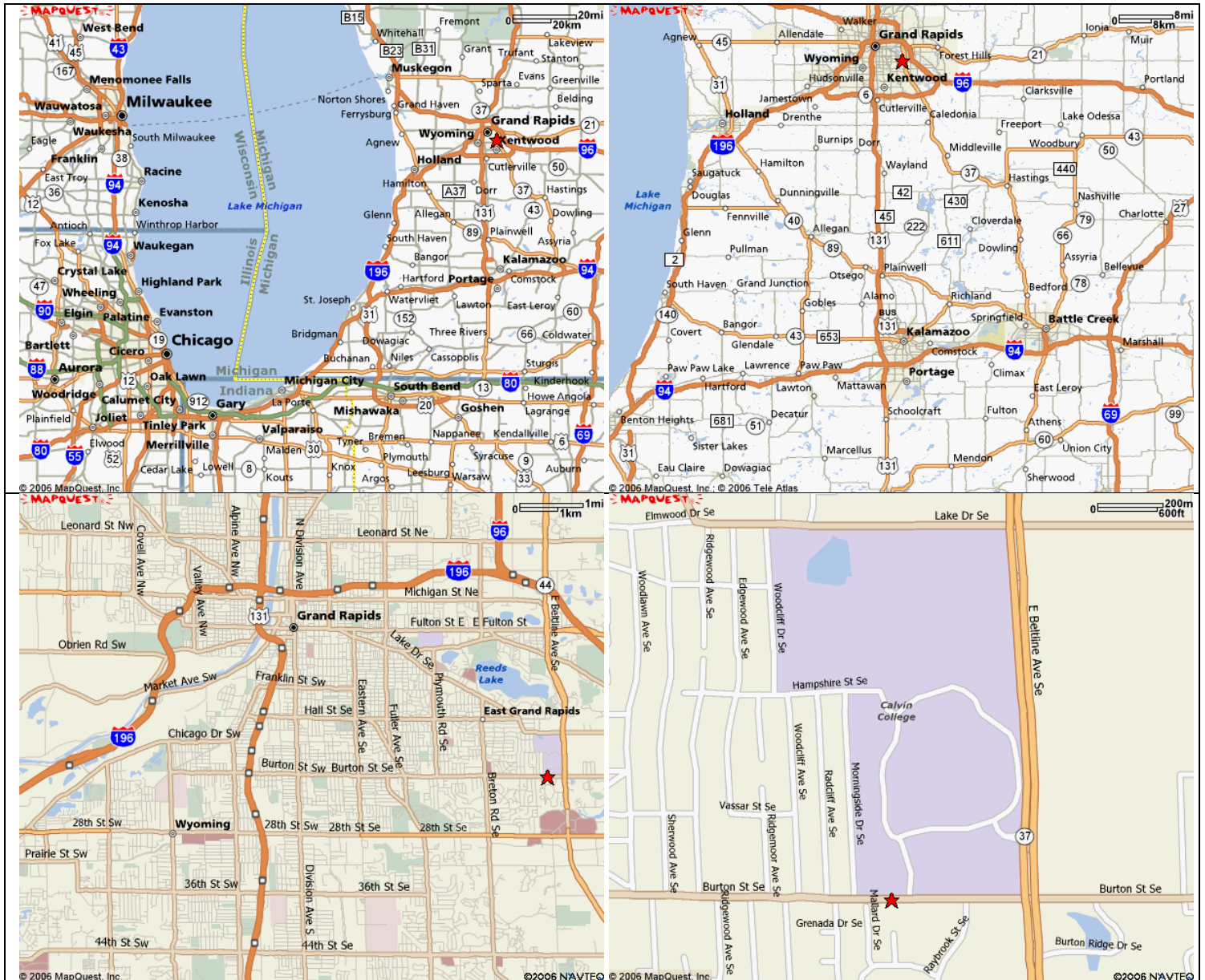
Return times on Sunday, July 11, are as follows:

- Depart from Grand Rapids 8:30 AM (Eastern time)
- Arrive **Woodfield Hyatt** at approximately **11:00 am (Central time)**

Be sure that you have the cell telephone number of the person who will pick you up on Sunday in case we are delayed. Say goodbye at the same place you got onto the bus.

Directions; I-294 (toward Detroit) to I-94, to I-196 to Grand Rapids, to 37 E. Beltway south

[Link to mapquest](#)



The following page has a facility map. Registration is at Knollcrest Dining Hall (13), Opening Ceremony at Van Noord Arena (16d), Meals are at the Commons (4).