

Youth Camps and Exchange Stories from the Field

Moderator

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Senior Program Development Specialist
Lions Clubs International



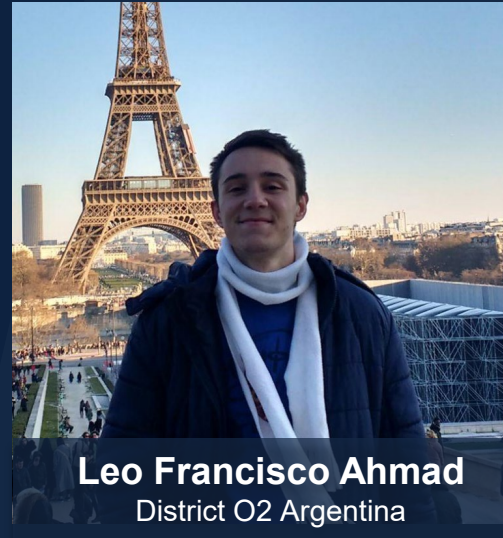
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Important information about this webinar

- This webinar is being recorded. The recording and presentation will be available later this week on the Lions International Virtual webpage: lionsclubs.org/virtual
- Your microphone has been muted and will remain so for the duration of this webinar
- Have a question? Submit it your question to youthexchange@lionsclubs.org



Meet Today's Presenters





Katie Labrie

District A2, Canada

YCE Participant – 2007

Host– 2015, 2016, 2019

Counsellor – 2017, 2018, 2019



A YCE Journey: Youth/ Host/ Counsellor



Family, Friendship, History & Beauty

- Welcomed with open arms
- Explored cities & nature
- Cultural exchange
- Opportunity for leadership
- Awareness of overcoming adversity
- Living history museum





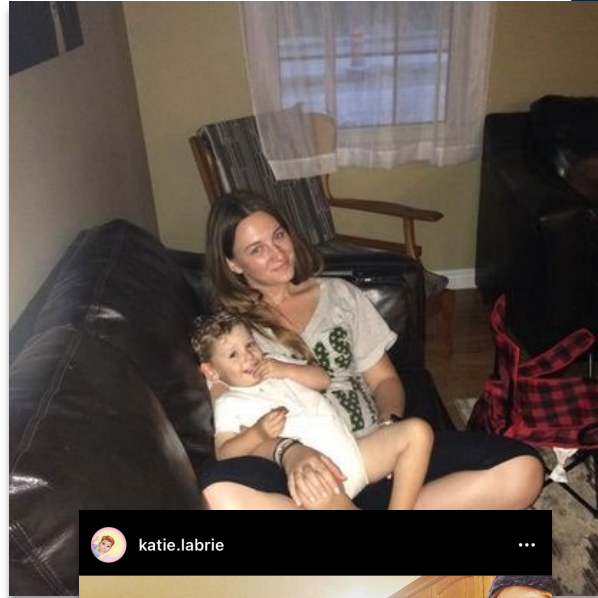
Insight Informed Improvement

The perspective I gained on the value of peace, the privilege of education & technology and the *power* of kindness has impacted my life for the better ever since.

I had the opportunity to expand my leadership skills, to see what perseverance & passion can achieve and to bring that experience back to share with my community.

The insights gained have shaped the way I am as a host and as a counsellor.





Hosting the World

- 4 students
- Denmark, Greece, Australia and France
- Important part of our family
- Proud to stay in touch and see how they are contributing to humanity



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Camp Counsellor/Manager of Opportunities and Memories aka MOM

- Focus on friendships
- Mutual respect
- Fostering leadership
- Highlighting what makes our area and our Lions Clubs special
- Celebrating what makes our campers special



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HOLDING ZONE
Thursday July 18th
Cooking team up at 7:30am
Breakfast at 8:15am (the summer camp kids are joining us)
Board bus at 9:30am
Service project sorting eyeglasses 10:00
Board bus for Jet Boats at 11:45 (you will get soaked!!)
Walk around NOTL bring \$ for lunch.
Board bus for Wiens TBD
Swimming and Dinner
Board bus for camp 8:00pm
Campfire if permitted
In proper cabins by 11:00
Quiet time 11:30pm

THANKS YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS AMAZING MONTH! I'LL MISS YOU A LOT, OUR CONVERSATION AND YOUR FAMILY. I HAVE NEVER HAD A HOSTING FAMILY AS SWEET AS YOURS. LOTS OF LOVE. EDUARDO.

Thank you for being so nice and for everything Love, Rikka

Thanks for this amazing experience. Love you lots

2021/12





Francisco Ahmad

District O2, Argentina
YCE Participant– 2018

First stop: YCE France 2018



Ahmad Host Family



YCE brothers

- Simone, Italy, 2018
- Francesca, Italy, 2019
- Carolina, México, 2020



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YCE Camp Eldorado 2019



YCE Camp Eldorado 2019





Different realities

- Nature
- Environmental care
- Teamwork



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**“Words are never enough
when what needs to be
said overflows the soul”**

Julio Cortázar



Past Leo-Lion Board Liaison Potter Ka Kai Fong

District 308 B1, Malaysia
YCE Participant – 2011
Host Family– 2012



My Youth Exchange Experience to Japan, 2011



Three hosting families in 26 days



What to expect in YCE?

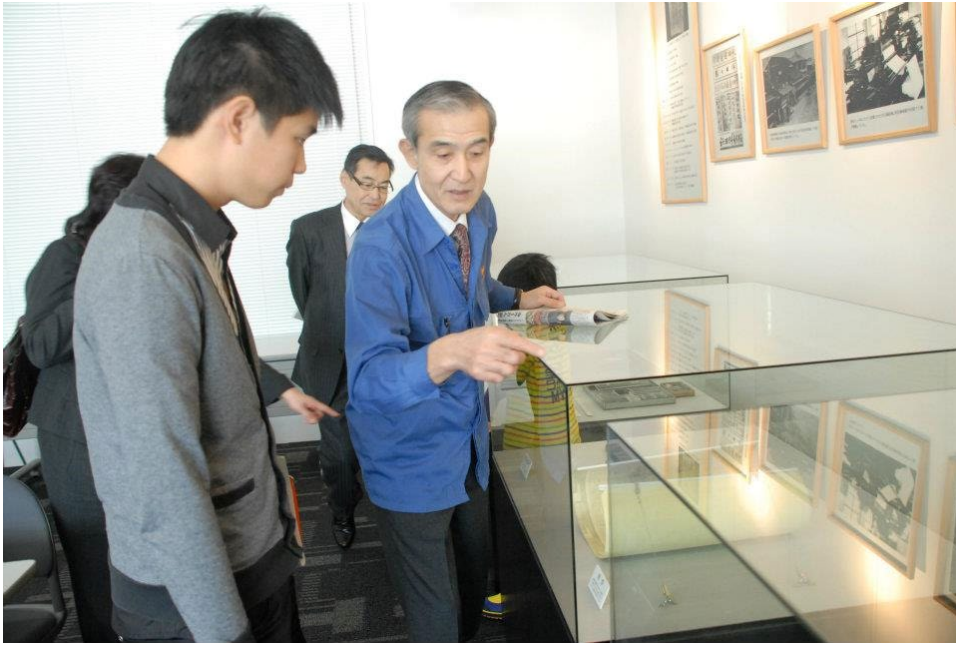
- Share your stories
- Learn new culture
- Interact with local person
- Celebrate local festival
- Enjoy local food
- Have fun!!!



YCE Experiences

- *Yukikaki* (Snow Clearing)
- *Udon* Noodle Making





YCE Experiences

- Visiting local newspaper factory
- Sumo Competition



Visit to local leaders



Courtesy visit to City Mayor
of Yokote City, Japan



Meet the YCE Chairperson
& District Governor



My Journey after Youth Exchange 2011



Hosting Youth Camps as local committee (2012)



- Discussion
- Local Tour
- Cultural Exchange
- Service Projects
- Farewell Dinner

Hosting Youth Exchange Visitors



Reiki Kato
Hokkaido, Japan
(Year 2014)



Kei Ogata
Kumamoto, Japan
(Year 2017)

The YCE Journey doesn't end here...

- Keep in touch with your hosting families
- Share your stories on social media
- Volunteer at local YCE program
- Promote YCE program to your friends





Lion Emily Struik

District 201N1, Australia
YCE Host Family– 1998-2002 &
2014-2019

District YCE Chairperson– 2015
Multiple District YCE Host Family
Coordinator– 2017-2019



My Lions Youth Exchange Journey: 1998-1999

- Article in Milton – Ulladulla Times about hosting youth from overseas
- My family
- Ulladulla-Milton Lions Club host youth from around the world in July – August
- Joined Lions November 1999



December 1998

- Youth from Japan and Malaysia hosted by Ulladulla Milton Lions Club



2000-2002

- Youth choose whether they wanted to attend a camp
- 6 week exchange
- Life experiences for youth very different
- Relying on photos to record experiences



Perceptions About Australia

- Australia is a small country so it is easy to visit places such as Ulura and the Great Barrier Reef
- Sydney is the capital of Australia
- Kangaroos are found everywhere
- Dangerous creatures (spiders etc) are found everywhere







UNITED
KINGDOM & IRELAND



JAPAN



UNITED
STATES



Australia Size Comparison



EUROPE



NEW
ZEALAND



SOUTH
EAST ASIA

2014

- Rejoined Lions and became a charter member of Urunga Lions Club
- Lions Youth Exchange Program was adopted as a club project
- Chose to host 2 youth at a time as I no longer had children at home



Youth I Have Hosted: 2014-2019

- Each year I hosted youth for periods of 1-3 weeks
 - July: Europe (usually the Netherlands)
 - August: Japan
 - December – January: Malaysia, New Zealand, Japan
- 30 youth hosted



Youth I Have Hosted: 2014-2019 continued

- Facebook became the key way to record my experiences with the youth I hosted
- Family and friends were able to share the Youth Exchange journey with the youth I hosted as it was happening
- A permanent record of exchange that is easily accessible



Travel

- Public transport is limited
- Distances are large
- Time is limited



Travel

- Day trip to Port Macquarie (300km return) to get up 'close and personal' with Australian wildlife
 - Koala Hospital
 - Billabong Koala & Wildlife Park

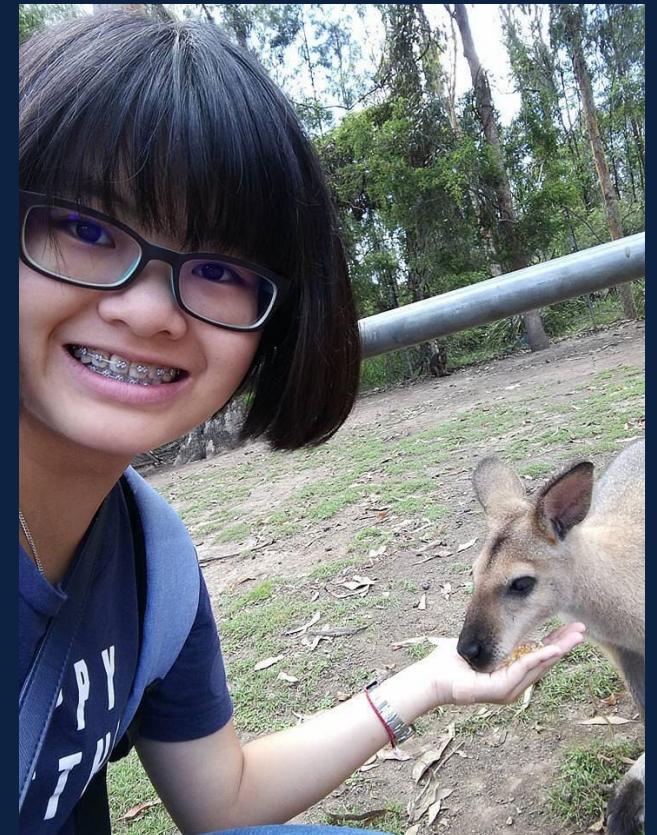
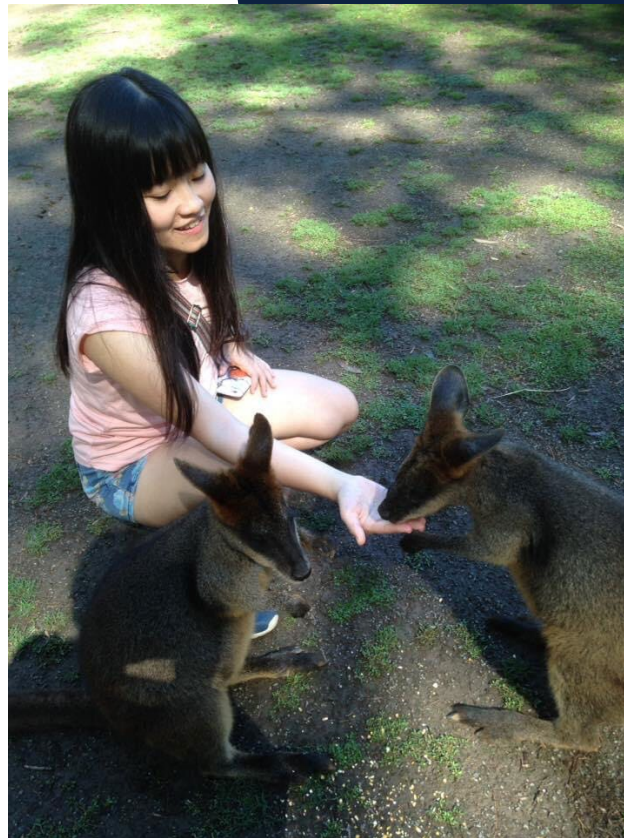




Koala Hospital

- Home for koalas injured in accidents, bushfires etc and also treatment centre for koalas that are to be released into the wild

Australian Marsupials



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Shrek – saltwater crocodile
who came from the Northern
Territory



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Baby Dingo





Emily Struik

24 Jul 2015 · Coffs Harbour, NSW · 

In the last 36 hours I have:

1. Driven more than 1100km
2. Visited the Macadamia Castle
3. Walked to the most easterly point on the Australian mainland
4. Eaten at Jupiters on the Gold Coast
5. Enjoyed the pool, spa and sauna in our apartment complex
6. Had about 4.5 hours sleep
7. Walked along the boardwalk at Broadwater
8. Went shopping in Maroochydore
9. Spent time with some Lions at the international youth camp on the Sunshine Coast

No wonder I'm so tired now!

Goodnight world!

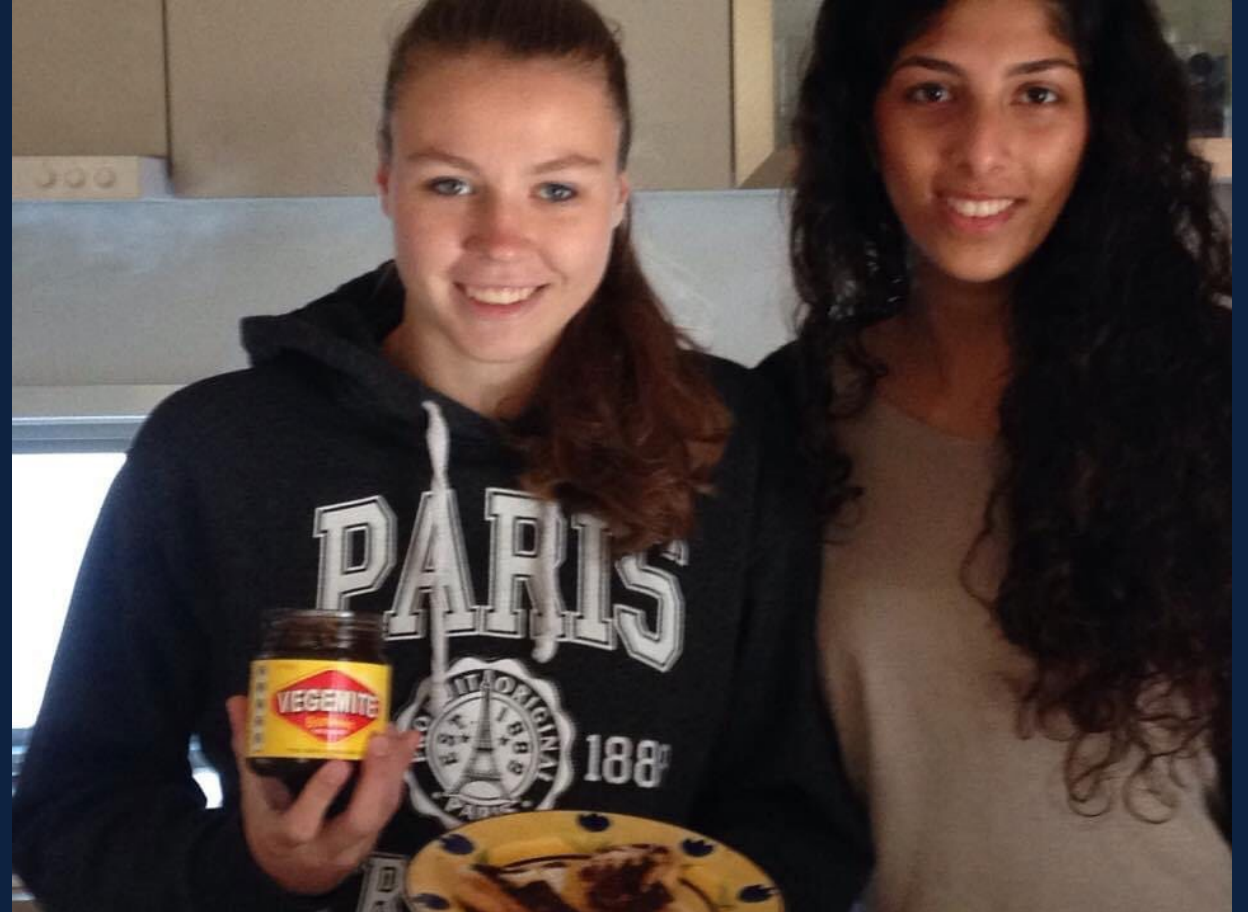


Wattle – Floral Emblem of Australia



You have to try Vegemite!

- You may be smiling beforehand, but there were very few smiles afterwards.



Regular BBQs are an Integral Part of the Urunga Lions Club Activities



Assisting Another Lions Club in the Area is Very Common





- Australian's enjoy the 'great outdoors' and many clubs have taken responsibility for creating parks for people to gather for a barbeque.



- Youth enjoy a visit to Sydney and Australia's most famous beach – Bondi!
- More than 1000km drive



- Australia has many fantastic beaches and Lions Clubs make use of them



Lion Omar Ramadan

District 352, Egypt

YCE Participant– 2017, 2018



YCE in Turkey (2017)



Host family adventure

Host family welcome in Turkey



YCE in Germany (2018)



Host family adventure

Host family welcome in Germany



Start of the youth camp in Turkey



Start of the youth camp in Germany



True friendship & a second family



Participating in country traditions

Traditional marriage in Turkey





Leo Lion Board Liaison Ulrike “Ulli” Herrmann

District 111 NH, Germany

YCE Participant– 2011, 2012

Camp Assistant and Leader – 2012,
2014, 2015, 2017, 2019

Host Family– 2012



Participant

- Camp Koala Australia 2011
- Camp Yukon & Alaska 2012





Organizer

- Camp 111N
- Camp 106C Leo



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Hosting

Hosting makes waves

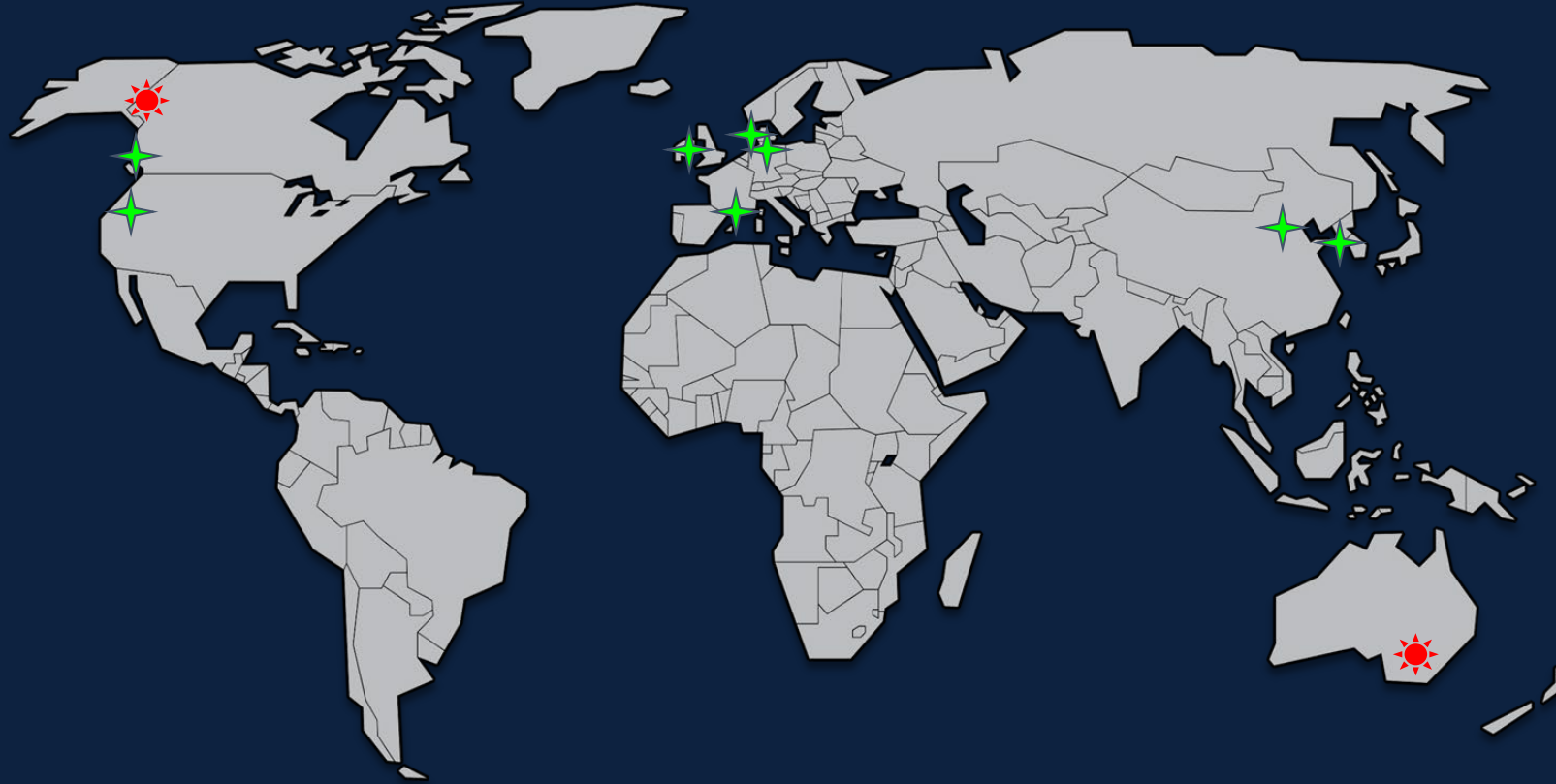
- Family involvement
- Longterm relationship
- Changing Lives

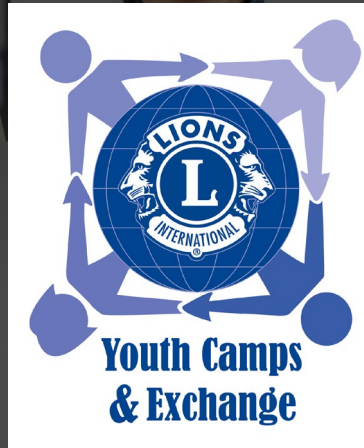


[Beaver Tails in Banff, Canada]



Life after Camp





Thank You

Please reach out to youthexchange@lionsclubs.org with any questions, and for more information.