

LIONS MD 19 YOUTH EXCHANGE FOUNDATION  
Report for Council of Governors at 2019 Annual Convention

The Youth Exchange Foundation of MD 19 is a Washington State Charitable Corporation that is qualified as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Regulation section 501(c)(3), meaning that both donors to the Foundation and the Foundation are free of U.S. income tax. The Foundation provides funds for some Youth Exchange activities because there is no funding through MD19, any District, Zone or Club except by donation.

Since 2018 the Foundation has offered a scholarship program for travel as part of the MD19 Youth Camps and Exchanges program, which is a separate function operating under the LCI Policy on Youth Exchange. Although there is some commonality of participation in the two groups, they are separate organizations. The MD19 Youth Exchange Committee sees that all exchanges meet the requirements of LCI. The Foundation establishes the rules for applying for a scholarship and provides funds.

Since there is no MD19 funding for Youth Exchange, the only way to provide funds is to either add a service charge to the cost of youths who participate or to receive donations from Lions and other sources. Adding a service charge is not presently being done. Instead, each Lions Club is asked to budget an annual donation and consider making a one-time special donation. There are approximately 11,000 Lions in MD19 and if every one of them donated 50 cents a year, the foundation could fund scholarships and other activities adequately. To date there have been a few individual donations and donations from about 6 Lions Clubs and two Zones.

In 2019 there were three applicants for a scholarship, and each received \$1,000. One travelled to Spain, one to Italy and one to Australia. Several Lions Clubs gave out scholarships. One youth travelled to Japan, one to Switzerland and two to South Carolina. None of those scholarship recipients applied for a Foundation Scholarship because they had received funding from local Lions Clubs. The Foundation provided each youth with two personalized polo shirts, MD 19 Youth Exchange banners and MD 19 Youth Exchange pins to take with them.

The Foundation presently has \$1,125.56 on hand at Banner Bank in Selah, Washington. It also has funds at TD Canada Trust. The Foundation has a healthy fund for the present but to continue very far into the future will require more donations from Lions Clubs and individuals as well as Districts and MD19.

Questions should be addressed to PDG George Robison, email [georgerobison@centurytel.net](mailto:georgerobison@centurytel.net) or phone 253-853-2721. Any questions concerning the MD19 Youth Camps and Exchange Program should be addressed to YE Chairperson Tammy Allan at [allaninsurance@fairpoint.com](mailto:allaninsurance@fairpoint.com).