**HISTORY OF C. KIRBY SMITHE LIONS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP**

 **The Arizona Lions Youth Exchange was originally founded as C. Kirby Smithe Lions International Youth Camp in 1981, Arizona District 21B, now a non-profit 501 C(3) organization. We have hosted over 350 young men and women from a variety of countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Between the years of 1981 and 1996, the camp enjoyed the honor of hosting the International President at our farewell dinner. Each year we host up to ten students, between the ages of 16 and 20. We provide them with a two week experience living with an Arizona host family.**

**The camp provides touring throughout the beautiful state of Arizona, enjoying the natural wonders of our state and learning about the diversity and culture of our area. The north trip includes visits to Wickenburg, Prescott, Sedona, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Mogollon Rim and Camp Tatiyee. The south trip includes Globe, a mine tour in Morenci, Safford and a visit to the Melvin Jones Memorial, Sierra Vista, Cochise Stronghold Ranch, Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Tombstone, Bisbee, Phoenix and Tucson. Our campers fly in and out of Tucson International Airport and our base camp is at a hotel in central Tucson.**

**We are trying to promote greater participation for outgoing students to other countries. The opportunities are vast. The student should be within the ages of 16 and 21 and must be sponsored by a local Lions club. Most camps have a minimum fee, which can be paid by the sponsoring club or the student. If you know of any youth who would like to spend a month free in any of 186 countries in the world, all you need do is contact the Arizona Youth Exchange Chairperson at the email site listed. The youth can be a son, daughter, grandchild or the child of a friend. The candidate is expected to provide transportation to and from the country of choice and to have spending money for incidentals. As a sponsor, you are expected to vouch for the good conduct and character of the youth. The time to initiate the application process is late Fall or early winter.  *All applications must come from the local Lions Youth Exchange Chairperson in each country, which is then sent to the Arizona Youth Exchange Chairperson for screening and final acceptance.***