

What in the World is a World Affairs Seminar?

On June 23rd, Sera Lew of LOSH and Kendall Thornburgh of Lakeridge HS will fly from Portland to Wausheka, WI to attend the 2018 World Affairs Seminar at Carroll University for a one-week leadership workshop. They will represent our town, their schools, and families and have a life changing experience as well with hundreds of teens from around the world. The theme of this year's Seminar is: Innovation: How the Digital World is Shaping your Future".

Sera Lew, a sophomore at Lake Oswego High School writes that "I feel that I am a prime candidate for this seminar as my passion deeply lies in leadership...I began my leadership journey as the Freshman Class President... I set a goal at the beginning of the year to create a more inclusive environment for my classmates...and spearheaded the movement to start a Unity Club. I also joined the Diversity Council and was just accepted to the Royalty Committee in LOHS. I attended the Oregon Association of Student Council."

In addition, this summer she is traveling to the Dominican Republic serving and empowering children there. "I am excited to serve and immerse myself in a different cultural environment with the hope of making a small, but significant impact in this world for the better".



Kendall Thornburgh, a junior at Lakeridge High School writes that "...Innovation deals with everything that interests me and that I want to do in the future. Ever since I was in 7th grade, I have been fascinated with science, more specifically engineering...to create and find new and better ways to do things or solve problems...the engineering field that interests me is Aerospace Engineering.

I hope to learn a great deal from all the fantastic speakers that I can apply to my own life...an opportunity to for me to meet people from all over the world and the United States and to have experiences as well as memories that would last a lifetime."

A varsity basketball player, Kendall has learned leadership, cooperative, and communication skills as a team player as well.

Believing in the African Proverb, "Alone I go fast, together we go far", I want to recognize the Rotarians who made this project "go far": The Rotary Board of Directors and Youth Services Committee, especially the Chair, Brian Bice, along with Linda Brown, Kevin Costello, and Bill Korach who help with the interviews. I am most grateful for Jake Jacobs' timely postings of our project summaries on the Rotary website. In addition, a special thanks to Rollin Dickinson, Ryan Rosenau, Jennifer Schiele, and Desiree Fischer of the Lake Oswego School District who generously help promote the program, recommend candidates, and schedule the interviews.

Since 2015, Lake Oswego Rotary has sent 8 Lake Oswego students from Lakeridge and Lake Oswego high schools to Carroll University in Wausheka, Wisconsin for a week of learning, discussion, and field trips to solve global problems.

Working in teams from the U.S, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, these teenagers have tackled global issues from water, energy, education, social justice, and this year, to innovation and its impact on families and teens. In addition to meeting new friends from the U.S. and abroad, the delegates have time to hang out and use all the athletic facilities at Carroll University getting a taste of college life to come.

In the past three years, the club sent George Irving, Karthik Sreedhar, Jeshua Corgan, Joel Saarinen from Lakeridge HS and Samarra Watson, Savannah Grosse, Chloe Leeper, and Kate Fayloga from Lake Oswego HS to this Seminar. Their only obligation was to make a 20-minute presentation to the Rotary Club and be available to interview future candidates.

What makes this special? Our teenagers have a chance to demonstrate leadership skills, core content knowledge about the topic, and meet new friends from around the world while experiencing a week as a “college student”.

The scholarship is managed and paid for by Lake Oswego Rotary and that includes all fees for materials, room, board, and transportation for a week; families just need to drop off their delegate at the Portland airport (PDX) on a Saturday and pick them up on the following Friday. We do ask the delegates to fill our applications, an expectation form, and health records and we ask the families for a \$100 commitment fee.

The criteria for the scholarship that we grant are: 1) An interest in global issues; 2) A good academic record; 3) Proven leadership skills. Applications are accepted from October to November in any given year, interviews are scheduled, and decisions made in January for the summer program. For further questions, feel free to email or call Ted Ricks, LO Rotarian, at tmricks@comcast.net or at (503) 37-6729.