

2010 Group Study exchange with District 2240 The Czech Republic and Slovakia

November 30 Update – Team Member Application Deadline Extended to January 13, 2010

Ed O'Brien, DC Club, chosen as GSE Team Leader,
Nancy Eller, Carroll Creek Club, chosen as Alternate.

The Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their careers. The program for District 7620, Central Maryland including Washington, DC, provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits with District 2240, the Czech Republic including Slovakia. The Czech Team will visit District 7620 from April 10 – May 10, 2010 and the District 7620 team will travel to the Czech Republic from May 1- May 29, 2010. For four weeks, team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. It is through this exchange that local Rotary Clubs make a contribution to Rotary International's goal of building world peace and understanding.

In a typical four-week tour, team members participate in five full days of vocational visits, 15 to 20 club presentations, 10 to 15 formal visits and social events, two to three days at the district conference, three to four hours per day of cultural and site tours, and three to four hours per day of free time with host families.

For each team member, the Foundation provides the most economical round-trip airline ticket between the home and host countries. Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel within their district.

As of November 30, recruitment for the 2010 exchange has been expanded to include candidates for ALL vocations, ALL young professionals interested in increasing their knowledge of the Czech Republic and how their profession is practiced there are encouraged to apply.

The team is composed of 4 young professionals and the Team Leader. The links to the GSE Brochure, Handbook and **Team Member Application** follow.

Dates for 2010 Group Study Exchange

District 2240 Team (Incoming Team) will visit District 7620 **April 19 -May 26, 2010**. District 7620 Team (Outgoing Team) will visit District 2240 from **May 10 –June 6, 2010**.

Team Member Information

Team members are expected to act in a mature and responsible manner during their travels and to stay with their team at all times unless accompanied by a host Rotarian. They must enter and leave the host district at the same time as the team, and they are responsible for any private, post-tour travel. Successful team members maintain an open mind, are positive, and have fun!

Eligibility Criteria: Team members MUST:

- be between the ages of 25-40;
- be a citizen of the United States ;
- be employed full-time in their profession for at least 2 years;
- *not* be a Rotarian, honorary Rotarian, or employee of Rotary or the lineal descendant or spouse of a lineal descendant, a Rotarian, an honorary Rotarian, or an employee of Rotary;
- *not* be the spouse of another team member;
- *not* be an ex-Rotarian or the lineal descendant or spouse of a lineal descendant of an ex-Rotarian or ex-Rotary employee who resigned less than 36 months before the time of application.
- Must work or live in the Rotary District, District 7620.

Ideal Candidates for team member are:

- between the ages of 25 and 40; are able to travel for the month of May 2010
- employed full-time in in their profession and in good health;
- neat in appearance and able to express themselves clearly and logically;
- of a sound, general educational background;
- interested in and clearly enthusiastic about their chosen vocation and in possession of outstanding vocational skills;
- open-minded, tolerant, flexible and culturally aware;

- mature and emotionally independent;
- Comfortable working as part of a team with a schedule that is physically and emotionally demanding.

Application Process for Team Members

All interested applicants must first have their candidacy endorsed by a Rotary club in District 7620, the district where the applicant works or lives. From there, endorsed applications are sent on for consideration at the district level. APPLICATIONS MUST BE ENDORSED BY A CLUB IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED AND ARE NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT A CLUB ENDORSEMENT.

All applications are due by **January 13, 2010**. They should be e-mailed to :
Barbara Bellack, GSE Coordinator
bbbellack8@yahoo.com

Questions? Call Barbara at 443-370-4830 (mobile) or send her an e-mail.

Resources/Links

- [Group Study Exchange brochure](#)
- [GSE team handbook](#)
- [GSE team member application](#)

Team Leader

The team Leader is a Rotarian who will build a team of individuals who will represent Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation with distinction and gain personally and professionally from this opportunity to contribute to world understanding. On Sunday, September 20, **Ed O'Brien** of the DC Club was selected as GSE Team Leader. **Nancy Eller** of the Carroll Creek Club in Frederick was selected as the Alternate GSE Team Leader. Both Ed and Nancy bring a wealth of international travel experience and Rotary service to the exchange. In addition, they bring credit and recognition to our District and we thank them for their willingness to serve in the GSE Program. And we thank all of the applicants for their interest in the program!