

## **How a Club Hosts an Inbound GSE Team**

Each year, the District GSE Committee sends out an inquiry to determine which clubs are interested and willing to host an Incoming GSE team. It is normal (and expected) that all clubs respond in some way to this inquiry.

After your club has made the commitment to host an inbound GSE team for a few days, get ready to do some planning, but also to have some fun!

You probably have some questions remaining about just what you have committed to do. First of all, YOU don't have to invent a program from scratch. Your District GSE Committee has been working with GSE for a long time, and is responsible for the general planning for the district's reception of the inbound GSE teams. You will be in frequent and close contact with the District GSE Committee prior to, and during, the visit. They will provide the necessary guidelines that you will need for planning the GSE team visit to your club. They are just a phone call or email away, so don't hesitate to contact them.

Generally, the Inbound team is in our district for four weeks, spending four to five days with each hosting club. There is no way that a team can visit all 68 clubs in the district, so the District Committee plans an itinerary that finds clubs that can offer appropriate professional visits, but they also have the objective of getting GSE teams to different towns/cities over the course of several years. Often, smaller clubs will plan joint meetings when the GSE teams are in the area, so that many Rotarians have the opportunity to interact with the team members.

Team visits are planned for the spring so the team can attend the district conference, where they make a presentation. The district committee will set the general travel schedule within the district and notify you of when the GSE team will be with your club.

In general, a club's commitment to host involves providing the team with home hospitality (lodging, laundry, internet access if possible, and meals not provided elsewhere); local touring and sightseeing; planning individual visits with peer professionals (if the visit is during the week); arranging for the team to speak to your club when the dates coincide; and providing transportation to/from other host clubs. Each hosting club is asked to coordinate with the clubs hosting before and after them, to arrange a smooth transfer of the team from one club to another. When the distances are long, as they often are in our district, the hosting clubs frequently arrange to meet halfway to transfer the team members.

Having club members act as home hosts is a wonderful way to build their enthusiasm and understanding of Rotary's international programs.

Thank you for agreeing to host the GSE team. We can promise you that it will be a very interesting experience for your club members.