

## Info for New Club GSE Chairs

Congratulations on being appointed as your club's Group Study Exchange Committee (GSE) Chairperson. GSE is a program that offers exciting opportunities for you and your club members to interact with young professionals from overseas; make new friends; and learn a great deal while having fun. There is little funding required from the local level, so it is a program in which all clubs have the opportunity to participate.

If you are not yet familiar with the Group Study Exchange Program, use this link to read a short introduction to this important RI program:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Fellowship/GroupStudyExchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

Typically, a member of the club appointed as GSE Committee Chair serves under the International Service Director. Guidance for your committee is outlined in various RI publications which can be obtained from RI's list at the following GSE materials download page:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/SiteTools/DownloadLibrary/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

GSE is an exchange program for teams of young professionals. The **Inbound Team** refers to our district receiving a team from another district for approximately one month. Our hosting clubs set a schedule of professional, social, and cultural activities for the inbound team members. The **Outbound Team** is chosen by the district GSE committee from recruitment efforts done at the club level to identify a group of qualified non-Rotary candidates who apply for the opportunity to fill one the four team member positions. There is also a team leader, who must be a Rotary member. The district GSE committee interviews the applicants and chooses those who will participate on the team. The team is trained, prepares a power point presentation on our district, and then travels to the home country of our Inbound Team.

While overseas, each team will live with Rotary members in 4-6 different cities/towns. They will meet with peer professionals and have the opportunity to attend many social functions. They will give their power point presentations to a number of Rotary clubs in each location.

It is expected that Rotarians serving as GSE committee chairs will have some questions that can't be answered fully at the club level. This leads to the development of a close working relationship between each club chairperson and the district committee. During the inbound phase of the GSE program, the chairpersons at each hosting club will also be in frequent contact with their counterparts in other hosting clubs.

At the conclusion of your term as GSE chair, you will know a lot more Rotarians around the district. This makes it more fun for you to attend district conferences. You will also have been introduced to one of Rotary's premier international programs – a program that has many other possibilities for your participation. Many prior GSE club chairs have later lead a GSE team to another country.