

Instructions for Group Study Exchange team member applicants

Thanks for your interest in becoming a member of the District 5450 GSE team. The following items are a mixture of instructions, pointers and contacts:

- The Rotary International site at www.rotary.org is huge, however, you should familiarize yourself with this incredible organization before you come to the interviews.
- Typing in keywords: Group Study Exchange will take you to the part of the site that deals with GSE...not an especially inviting section but there is a lot of information there.
- Specific information about this exchange can be found at www.rotary5450.org/gse/. Peruse the website to learn more about the Rotary clubs in this District. You will get information about deadlines, dates for interviews and application forms. Do read the reports of past groups (including the one that I led to Norway in 2005).
- Carefully read over the disqualifiers on the application form. You may not be related to a Rotarian by blood or marriage. You must be employed full-time and be between 25 and 40.
- You will need to have a Rotary club sponsor you. If you do not know anyone who belongs to a Rotary club, you can locate a club near you on the website. Clubs meet weekly and you will see a wide variety of times and locations. I can give you the contact information for the president of any club. I will most often introduce the two of you by e-mail. Most clubs are eager to sponsor team members. This will give you a flavor of what Rotary is about . Complete the application and take it with you to the Club. You must have the signature of the Club President before you are interviewed.
- I can also put you in touch with others who have been team members if you would like to find out more about the experience.
- **The deadlines are firm.** Make sure that you plan ahead so that I have the materials on the deadline date.
- It is wise to check with your employer before the interview so that you know if you can have a month-long leave from work.

- Attach a cover letter to your application, indicating why you would like to participate and why you think we should consider you for this opportunity.
- We will have one interview date so plan to be available on it. It is hard to assemble the interview team of eight people on more than one date.
- While airfare, lodging in homes of Rotarians and most food costs are covered, you will need to purchase liability and international health insurance. This cost usually does not exceed \$250. Rotary International provides the contact information for this. You will need to purchase simple, inexpensive gifts for your host families.
- **Mail the application, letter of intent/cover letter to: Connie Holden, 7134 Cedarwood Circle, Boulder, CO 80301. (Please don't send it certified mail because I am not at home during the day to receive it.) Feel free to call me at 303.530.1172 or send me questions by e-mail at choldensmith@aol.com.**

I so look forward to meeting you. This is an incredibly exciting experience. Best of luck to you.

Connie Holden, District 5450, GSE chair