



# OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

The Open World program offers clubs and districts in Rotary a way to enjoy meaningful international exchanges while giving professionals from Eurasian countries personal experiences with U.S. democracy.

“Rotary actively promotes world peace and understanding, and the Open World program is an excellent vehicle to accomplish this.”

— Alvaro Pisoni  
of the Rotary Club  
of Parker, Colorado,  
USA



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# OVERVIEW

This program, funded by a U.S. government agency, focuses on developing an international network that allows leaders with common interests to consult and cooperate with each other on issues that affect their communities.

Small groups of Open World participants (five delegates and a facilitator) visit the United States to learn about a particular topic within one of the hosting themes: accountable governance, social issues, or education. Accountable governance could include topics related to entrepreneurship, women in politics, or the environment. Social issues may focus on topics in health care or social services, while education could include STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) or special education.

# REQUIREMENTS

Your club can get involved by hosting Open World delegates and organizing a local program for them. This includes a homestay, transportation, 32 hours of professional meetings, and cultural activities. Through this exchange, club members broaden their international understanding and delegates experience U.S. family and civic life while learning how communities address contemporary issues.

The Open World program is operated by the Congressional Office for International Leadership, an independent U.S. federal agency in Washington, D.C. A grant secured by Rotary International makes the program available to clubs in the United States. Open World emphasizes the principles of accountability, transparency, and citizen involvement in government and community life.



## ROTARY HOSTS

As hosts, Rotary clubs and districts prepare an eight-day program that's partly professional and partly cultural.

Most activities relate to the delegation's specific focus, such as energy efficiency, rural tourism, pediatric trauma, or inclusive education.

The group might tour energy plants, meet with startups that are developing new resources, or visit the local chamber of commerce.

Delegates might take part in rural travel experiences, tour hospitals and medical centers, or visit school districts and join discussions about meeting the educational needs of children with disabilities.

Clubs also arrange tourist and cultural activities, such as museum visits or concerts, and other events where the delegates and hosts can socialize and get to know each other.

## BENEFITS

Hosting a delegation offers your club the chance to make international connections and promote global understanding. It's an opportunity to showcase your club locally by highlighting the ways members take action, reaching new groups in the community, and contacting local media organizations. You'll also be educating the delegates about what Rotary is and what we do.

Rotary members provide accommodations, local transportation, and meals for delegates. Rotary International reimburses clubs for many of their hosting expenses using Open World grants.

## DELEGATES

Each six-member delegation visits the U.S. for 10 days: two days in Washington, D.C., and eight days in the host community. Delegates come from several Eurasian countries, and men and women are equally represented. The average age of a delegate is 37.

# ROTARY AND OPEN WORLD

Rotary International is one of the national host organizations for Open World, with clubs serving as local hosts for the delegates. Rotary clubs in 280 cities and 48 states have hosted thousands of the program's participants since it began more than two decades ago.

## BECOME A HOST

We can help your club or district identify delegates to host. Send your request, including relevant projects you're working on and the participant countries you'd like to work with, to [openworldprogram@rotary.org](mailto:openworldprogram@rotary.org).

“*I'm looking for world peace. And how do you do that? You do it one person at a time. That's something that Rotary gives us: the opportunity to have relationships with people who live elsewhere and speak another language and maybe look different.*”

— Greg Bartz of the Rotary Club of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, USA



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