



## **GSE EXCHANGE WITH DISTRICT 4700, RIO GRANDE DO SOL, BRAZIL**

**APRIL 13 TO MAY 9, 2009**

### **What is Group Study Exchange?**

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 in the initial years of their professional life. The program provides travel grants for teams of participants to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. Our program is with the State of Rio Grande Do Sol at the southern tip of Brazil. For four weeks, team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. Team members can come from corporations, small businesses, community organizations, medical and educational facilities, government offices, and nonprofit agencies.

### **Why Rio Grande Do Sol?**

One of the most prosperous Brazilian states – in an economy that today ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the world. Known for its grain production, viticulture, ranching, and industrial output – including exports of shoes, tobacco, automobiles, grains, beef, leather, and chemicals. Also one of the most culturally rich states of Brazil – Largest provider of top models and beauty queens in Brazil - 5 of the last 10 winners of Miss Brazil were Miss Rio Grande do Sol! Home of super models - Alessandra Ambrosio, Gisele Bündchen and Ana Hickmann - seen in the Victoria Secret TV commercials. The "Riograndenses" are assiduous readers – with the highest number of books read per capita in Brazil and Latin America's largest outdoor book fair, the annual Porto Alegre Book Fair.

### **Why should I participate?**

Individuals who participate in this rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience will return home with a broadened cultural perspective and new understanding of a nation's history, language, commerce, and government. A GSE offers a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills, work on team building, and increase self-confidence. The program is designed to have an invaluable impact on the career of a young professional in the increasingly global workplace by creating networking opportunities and lifelong friendships.

### **What are the benefits to my employer and my community?**

GSE enhances the international perspective of the next generation of young leaders that will take your company into the future. GSE participants return with new communication and facilitation skills that promote tolerance and collaboration with professional people of other cultures. GSE fosters a creative approach to problem solving by expanding the employee's skill set, exposure

to alternate methodologies, and preparation for addressing community needs. In addition, GSE provides a great public relations opportunity to promote awareness of your business or organization, as local and international media may feature interviews, photos, and articles about the exchange.

## **Who is eligible?**

GSE team member applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 25 and 40
- Be fully employed with at least two years of work experience in their chosen field
- Be in the early stages of their careers or professions
- Reside in or be employed in the sending Rotary district and also be citizens of the country in which they reside
- Be proficient in the language of the country being visited
- Be personable, articulate, cooperative, motivated team players, and enthusiastic about their vocations
- Seek to gain a maximum educational value from the program, as well as be able to fulfill the rigorous demands of international travel and active participation in an extensive itinerary

The best candidates for GSE are rising leaders who meet the qualifications above and who have an interest in people of other cultures. GSE can be an excellent way to recognize top-performing staff or provide exposure for potential young leaders with limited international experience.

## **What is the structure of the program?**

Teams are composed of 4-6 non-Rotarian team members, usually of various business and professional backgrounds, and one Rotarian team leader. The GSE experience spans 4 weeks.

During the exchange, the team will visit local businesses, government offices, and community organizations in the host district, tour historical and cultural sites, stay with Rotarian host families, and make presentations about their home countries and professions. Team members receive orientation and cultural preparation from the sponsor Rotary district before their departure. This may include language training, practice of oral presentations, visits to Rotary clubs, and background about Rotary International's mission and the programs of its Foundation.

## **What is provided?**

For each team member, The Rotary Foundation provides the most economical round-trip air ticket between the home and host countries. Local Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel in their district. Each team member is responsible for all personal and incidental expenses incurred before, during, and after the study tour, including any personal travel arranged after the exchange.

## **What is required of me?**

Before leaving:

- Participate in orientation sessions and group meetings, and obtain the necessary

documents for traveling. This includes passport, travel visa, immunizations, and medical insurance.

During the tour:

- Accept the decisions of the Rotarian team leader.
- Fulfill any requirements to speak at Rotary host district gatherings.
- Remain with the group throughout the study tour except when individual activities are planned.
- Maintain standards of behavior that will reflect positively on Rotary and the home country.

After returning:

- Prepare and submit final reports of the tour as required by the sponsor district and The Rotary Foundation.
- Speak about your GSE experience to Rotary clubs and other groups.

### **How do I apply?**

Contact your local Rotary club for applications. Application deadline is midnight September 30, 2008. Applications must be made through local Rotary clubs; those sent directly to The Rotary Foundation will not be considered. Candidates are selected by a qualified committee of Rotarian leaders. Additional information about Rotary club locations, GSE application materials, and program guidelines can be found at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or from Bill Pearl, GSE Chair at 561-691-9912 office; 561-371-8587 mobile; 561-691-9869 fax; billpearl@msn.com

**Thank you!**