

Introduction to D 6930 New Generations Service Exchange



Exposure to different cultures ranks as one of the most powerful ways to promote international understanding and peace. The Rotary New Generations Service Exchange program provides college, university and graduate students with the opportunity to meet people from other countries and to experience new cultures and career opportunities through the lens of a different culture, planting the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

The NGSE adds to Rotary's programs to support young adults in their development. As other youth programs do, the NGSE radiates into other Avenues and Programs. The program offers numerous benefits to its young participants and their Rotarian hosts and mentors, as well as to the community at large. Through New Generations Service Exchange, participants learn firsthand about life in another country, the world of work and Rotary International. As their concept of the world expands, they mature and develop a deeper understanding of themselves, others and the world.

Immersion in another country's cultural system enhances their academic, vocational and personal growth. Host clubs and families and the entire community are enriched by extended, friendly contact with someone from a different culture.

The New Generations Service Exchange is part of the Fifth Avenue of Service: YOUTH SERVICE. It is an independent program, but since it is relatively new, it builds on network and experience of other Youth Service programs – especially the Youth Exchange Program.

History

In 2012 the RI Board decided to implement the New Generations Service Exchange - NGSE (see Code of Policies 8.060.). The Program is part of the 5th Avenue of Service. The Council on Legislation in 2013 decided to name the Avenue "Youth Service".

Youth Service recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

District 6930 NGSE Exchanges

Adults ages 18 to 25 may participate in New Generations Service Exchange for up to three months, and each customized opportunity must have a strong vocational or humanitarian service component.

The schedule of activities shall be developed by the host district: primarily vocational service (one or more unpaid internships), or humanitarian service work supporting one or more of The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus. The host district shall arrange for the housing/hosting of participants and the local Sponsor Rotary Club should provide local transportation to Rotary activities. Districts shall utilize screening procedures to identify suitable hosting arrangements.

Eligible candidates shall be sponsored by a local Rotary club in the Rotary District of (a) their college/university (b) their own residence or (c) their parents' place of residence. The program is under the direction of the NGSE chairman and committee, their district Youth Service chair, and sponsoring District Governor. Current Rotaract members and former Interact, Rotaract, RYLA and Youth Exchange students are encouraged to apply.

Participants should demonstrate during the interview process a strong commitment to service and the ideals of Rotary.

Non Paid, Non Academic Internships. The exchange shall not be longer than three months, which usually coincides with the limitations of most tourist visas. A workplace (s) has to be arranged before the exchange begins, in the field of study aligned with the inbound student's education future career goals. Rotarian businesses in the host community should be the primary sources of potential employers.

Most participants stay in host families who provide appropriate room and board. There may be some internships which make living in private homes difficult or impossible (e.g. working in an orphanage or hospital). In these cases the hosting Rotary Club will arrange adequate housing. The assumption of additional costs has to be negotiated between the sponsoring and hosting Rotary Districts and participating Clubs.

Flexibility in the New Generations Service Exchange program allows it to be adapted to fit the needs of any participant who qualifies.

Rotary Club

While coordinated at the district level under the supervision of the district governor, the New Generations Service Exchange program depends on the participation of Rotary clubs, Rotarians and their families, and others in the community to build an effective support system for sending and hosting participants. All club members should make an effort to participate in New Generations Service Exchange activities, either as a member of the club New Generations Service Exchange committee, a host parent, or participating in offering cultural and social opportunities for inbound student to participate in American life.

Each participating club assumes the following responsibilities:

- Coordinating club New Generations Service Exchange activities with the district program and ensuring compliance with RI and district policies.
- Establishing club expectations for participants.
- Ensuring that participants attend mandatory functions, such as orientations or district conferences.
- Receiving feedback from participants for program modification.
- Notifying district New Generations Service Exchange chair of any participant issues or concerns.
- Raise and allocate funds to support participants – if needed.

For outbound participants:

- Promoting the program to participants in the community, distributing applications, and coordinating selection of participants at club level.
- Interviewing and selecting candidates for the exchange.

For inbound participants:

- Establishing and maintaining contact with inbound participants before they arrive.
- Meeting participants at airport or train station.
- Serving as liaison between Rotary club and work places that participants attend during the exchange.
- Interviewing and screening potential host families.
- Maintaining contact with district NGSE coordinator.
- Coordinating selection and orientation of host families and maintaining contact with host families throughout the participant's stay.

These responsibilities are shared among the club president and the club New Generations Service Exchange committee and chair as follows:

- The **club president** appoints the club New Generations Service Exchange chair, who should be someone with previous New Generations Service Exchange or for the immediate future, Youth Exchange experience. The president also oversees the selection of the club committee and supports the club's New Generations Service Exchange activities.
- The **club New Generations Service Exchange chair** plans, implements, and supports all activities involving sending and hosting participants.
- The **club New Generations Service Exchange committee** provides support as directed by the chair.
- The size and scope of this committee will vary according to the size of the club and the extent of its involvement in the program.

Rotary International

New Generations Service Exchange programs are implemented by districts, with local Rotarians making all exchange arrangements. The RI Secretariat provides the following support to Rotarians involved in New Generations Service Exchange:

- Forwarding inquiries from prospective exchange participants to district chairs and club presidents.
 - Providing an updated list of district New Generations Service Exchange chairs and multidistrict officers each quarter.
 - Facilitating communications between New Generations Service Exchange chairs around the world.
 - Developing promotional materials for Rotarians to use and working to place stories on New Generations Service Exchange in newspapers and other publications.
 - Working with other exchange organizations and regulatory bodies.
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